

ARKANSAS SCHOOLS TO WATCH

MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE

Helen Tyson Middle School



2007-08 School Statistics

(Source: Arkansas Department of Education and as-is.org)

Community: Fast growing suburban area
Enrollment: 816
Grade Levels: 6th and 7th
School Schedule: 7 period day

Student Demographics

46 %	Hispanic
45 %	White
6 %	Asian/ Pacific Islander
2 %	African American
1 %	Native American

61.3 %	Free/Reduced Lunch
40.9 %	English Learners

	Math	Literacy
2005 AYP:	48.7%	65%
2006 AYP:	58%	66.9%
2007 AYP:	64.7%	61.7%

Designated in January 2008

- Helen Tyson Middle School • District Springdale
- County Washington • State AR
- Principal Susan Buchanan
- School Address 3304 S. 40th Street
- Phone (479) 750-8720
- E-mail sbuchanan@sdale.org

School Web site: <http://htms.springdaleschools.org>

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Highly energized teachers with action oriented learning
- Dynamic leadership team that shares a strong and focused vision for the school
- High expectations for all students
- Increased math achievement over past three years
- Strong professional learning community
- Vertical and horizontal curriculum alignment
- Total Instructional Alignment (TIA) incorporating essential questions and higher order thinking skills
- Inclusion programs benefiting special education and English Language Learners
- ESOL and Literacy Coaches
- School-wide monthly common assessments, formative assessments, assessments for student learning (ASL)
- Support systems implemented to address deficits in both math and reading (Math Masters and Radical Readers)

(Continued)

Academic Excellence *(continued)*

- Numerous interventions for students at risk (ex. Successmaker, before and after school tutoring, guided study)
- Scholars Program- offering extended learning opportunities, both after school and summer programs
- Effective mix of both teaming and departmental meetings
- Excellent gifted program meeting the needs of gifted learners
- Strong partnerships with parents and community
- Variety of methods to assess student performance (e.g., exhibitions, long-term projects, performance tasks, technology-based assessments, alternative assessments)
- Differentiated instructional strategies implemented school-wide

Developmental Responsiveness

- Safe orderly learning environment
- Pyramid of Interventions implemented at both grade levels
- Effective transition between feeder schools
- Warm and inviting environment
- Ongoing collaboration between core and special education teachers
- Students have access to materials and supplies that support hands-on learning
- Flexible inclusion/co-teaching approach utilized to individualize instruction for subpopulations
- Excellent physical layout of building to support needs of students
- Variety of clubs to encourage student participation (ex. SWAP Club, Reading Clubs, HOFNOD, Student Council, College Bound, FCS)
- Classroom learning environments enriched by visual learning tools
- Multiple opportunities for parental involvement (Family Nights: Literacy Sting, Evening of the Arts, Math Carnival, World Fest, Health and Fitness, Technology; Watchdogs, PTA, Multicultural Nights, PALMS Parent Nights, College Bound Field Trips)

Social Equity

- Inclusion program provides special education students additional support in the regular classroom
- Sheltered and co-taught classes promote English Language Learners' academic success
- Spanish classes include both native and non-native speakers
- Character recognition activities available to all students (Students of the Month, Pizza with the Principal, SWAP Club activities, Counseling programs, You Miss School—You Miss Out)
- Students have access to services that support their personal, social, and physical development (physical, occupational, and speech therapy; school nurse, school-based counseling services)
- Path 4 Teens Curriculum provides guidance for all students regarding relationships and goal setting
- GREAT Program encourages character and leadership development
- PALMS Program provides Latino students and families with information and opportunities regarding both secondary and postsecondary education
- College Bound Club has over 300 student members and motivates students toward postsecondary education
- Reward systems value diversity, service, and good citizenship
- Enhancement class offers each student an adult mentor
- The school provides all students with opportunities to develop and demonstrate citizenship skills to serve the community and others

Organizational Support

- **Active PTA parent group**
- **Successful Watchdog Dad program**
- **Active partnership with Community Care Foundation**
- **School Board involvement at the school level**
- **School Resource Officers available to school**
- **Partnership with high schools including seventh grade Sports P.E., Key Club, FFA, Horticulture Department, History Day**
- **Higher education partners: University of Arkansas, Northwest Arkansas Community College, John Brown University, Northwest Technical Institute, Missouri State University, Harding University**
- **Partnerships with elementary, junior highs and high schools to facilitate student transition**
- **Rockefeller Foundation**
- **Education Renewal Zone**
- **Education Development Center**
- **Laurie Beth Jones Foundation**
- **John Archer Foundation**