

COLORADO TRAILBLAZER SCHOOL TO WATCH



Prairie Middle School



Designated in 2004; Redesignated 2007

Prairie Middle School
Cherry Creek School District
Dr. Kandy Cassaday, Principal
12600 East Jewell Avenue
Aurora, Colorado 80012
Arapahoe County
(720) 747-3200
www.pms.ccsd.k12.co.us/

2005-07 School Statistics Cherry Creek School District and CSAP (Colorado Student Assessment Program)

Community: Size/characteristics
Enrollment: 1,576
Grade Levels: 6, 7 & 8
School Schedule: 8:25 a.m. – 3:35 p.m.

Student Demographics

28%	Hispanic
31%	White
35%	African American
06%	Asian/Pacific Islander
67%	Free/Reduced Lunch
39%	English Learners

Achievement Gap

	2005	2007
Math	30% difference	20% difference
Reading	29%	23%

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Aligned Staff Development. “One Vision One Voice”
- Instructional Leadership – Excellence and Equity – Goals for school improvement
- Grade level workshop monthly aimed at reaching School Improvement Plan goals
- Professional learning teams weekly meeting by grade level content
- Regular data dissemination on achievement and progress
- Regular progress monitoring of student leadership groups
- Tutorials are offered before or after school
- Prairie Youth College – Focused on vocabulary skills - development for math and ELL students
- SpringBoard - Pre-AP Program for college readiness (all students) Language arts curriculum
- Elimination of low tracked classes. All students participate in grade level course work
- Focus Group – action research aligned with School Improvement Plan

(Continued)

Schools to Watch

Prairie Middle School

Academic Excellence *(continued)*

- Systemic progress monitoring in place
- Extended learning opportunities available
- Saturday school academic opportunities
- Student Leadership Group focused on academic performance

Developmental Responsiveness

- 3 small schools within a school with a counselor and a dean: Turning points research
- Teaching teams – intercurricular
- Character development through groups i.e., grief and loss, super pins stars, honor roll, drum projects, anger management, conflict resolutions
- Structured time for learning, learning culture and climate
- AVID; organizational and motivational support
- Enrichment and support classes

Social Equity

- Parent leadership and student leadership groups intentionally broken down by race and are empowered to lead and organize events
- Work with Glen Singleton's Courageous Conversations regarding institutional racist practices that promote an achievement gap between students of color, white and Asian students in schools
- Intentional hiring practice with staff who mirror the diversity of students
- Leadership Academy

Organizational Support

- School within school community concept
- AVID support and strategies
- Tutorials before and after school
- Youth College
- Athletic/Activities
- NJHS
- Student Senate
- Leadership Group (Hispanic, African-American, White and Asian)
- ACCESS support classes