



GEORGIA LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOLS TO WATCH

UPSON-LEE MIDDLE SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE

Upson-Lee Middle School



2010-2011 School Statistics

(Source: State Report Card/AYP Notices)

Community: Rural with population of 25000+
Enrollment: 1047
Grade Levels: 6-8
School Schedule: 7 period day

Student Demographics

2% Hispanic
58% White
37% African American
0% Filipino
1% Asian
0% Pacific Islander
2% Multiracial
74% Free/Reduced Lunch
1% English Learners

2005 AYP: Met 11 of 12 indicators*
2006 AYP: Met 11 of 12 indicators*
2007 AYP: Met 11 of 12 indicators*
2008 AYP: Met 12 of 12 indicators
2009 AYP: Met 12 of 12 indicators
2010 AYP: Met 10 of 11 indicators
*SWD Math-Improving but not meeting

Designated in 2005; Re-designated 2008, 2011

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School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Provide Extended Learning Time during regular school day two days per week
- Rigorous standards based instruction
- Data driven instruction
- Every classroom is equipped with state of the art technology (interactive whiteboards and wireless capability).
- Thinking Maps are integrated into all areas of the school day
- All academic teachers hold gifted endorsements
- High Impact practices, such as differentiation, assessment for learning, RTI, Higher Order Thinking Skills, and fluid/flexible grouping, are present throughout the curriculum

**Georgia Lighthouse School to Watch
Upson-Lee Middle School**

Developmental Responsiveness

- One on one tutoring
- After school tutoring
- After-hours reading programs available
- EBIS- a school wide positive behavior plan
- School wide Fight Free Program
- Connections classes including art, music, band/chorus, foreign language, multi-media, agricultural science, math and reading strategies, keyboarding, and direct reading instruction.
- Improved attendance due to attendance incentive program
- Clean, safe, and attractive campus
- Parent/Community involvement opportunities including Career Day, PTSO, Partners in Education, School Council.
- 2nd Step Bullying prevention program
- Parent Nights organized after the “Are You Smarter Than A Middle Schooler?” model
- Computer-assisted instruction, using programs such as ALEKS, Power Up, Classworks
- Additional instructional time during regularly scheduled “Lunch & Learn” classes and Extended Learning Times
- Peer Helper program
- Advisor/Advisee twice per month
- Community Health Fair
- *Write for the Future*, *Go My Access*, TSARS, and DGP programs to improve writing skills

Social Equity

- School wide heterogeneous grouping with differentiated instruction
- Full-time Behavior Intervention specialist
- Love and Logic training
- Parent Involvement Room
- Title I Parent Involvement Coordinator/Parent Mentor
- Knight Buddies program to support students new to the school
- ESOL program
- Provide at risk students with focus team support
- Numerous club opportunities available to students
- Social opportunities such as sporting events, dances, pep rallies, and concerts

Organizational Supports

- Common collaborative subject area planning three times per week
- 3 year professional learning plan on file
- 100% highly qualified staff with yearly on campus professional learning opportunities to further the goals of the school improvement plan
- Strong inclusion program; 95-100% inclusion for Science. Social Studies and Language Arts classes; 80-85% inclusion for math and literature/reading
- A SPED-certified instructional strategist is assigned to each academic team to move throughout the day with SWD students
- Three- and four- member academic teams per grade level with an instructional strategist per team
- Science Fair

- **The principal is the instructional leader, heading a leadership team that is representative of the faculty; the mission of the leadership team is to plan, document and guide school improvement**
- **Instructional coaching program provided for all core academic subjects**
- **Student response systems, Active Expressions and Math Navigators, facilitate progress monitoring in academic classes**