



## SCHOOLS TO WATCH MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE

### Arthur A. Libby Middle School



#### Designated in 2009

Arthur A. Libby Middle School

- Chicago Public School District #299 • Cook County
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### 2009 School Statistics

(Source: Illinois State School Report Card)

Community size/characteristics: Libby Middle School serves the Back of the Yards neighborhood on Chicago's south side. It receives students from its own elementary school and serves as a feeder school for Richards Career Academy and Tilden High School.

Enrollment: 573

Grade Levels: Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

School Schedule: Departmental schedule with 2 advisory and 3 exploratory periods per week

#### Student Demographics

- 7.3% Hispanic
- 92.7% African American
- 97% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 4.7% English Learners

2006: 41% Reading 44.6% Math

2007: 38.9% Reading 50.5% Math

2008: 45.2% Reading 45.8% Math

2009: 47.6% Reading 54.7% Math

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

### Academic Excellence

- High expectations for all students
- Clear expectations for students
- Examples of student work visible and used to show the standard
- Students are given many opportunities to meet the standard
- Content is connected to students' lives
- Students have an understanding of why they are learning what they are learning
- Critical thinking questions used in class
- Cross curricular projects are common
- AVID
- Engaging instruction
- Differentiated instruction
- Whole group, small group, and individual instruction

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- Project-based learning
- Technology integrated into instruction
- Student movement incorporated into instruction
- Varied assessments used
- Students using self-assessment and rubrics
- Data analysis conducted to determine teaching

## **Developmental Responsiveness**

- Team building with students and staff
- Offers advanced classes in literature and algebra
- Advisory Program
- Choice of exploratory classes
- Quarterly awards ceremony
- Student led school newspaper “Lion’s Den”

## **Social Equity**

- All students, including English learners, students with disabilities, and honor students participate to the maximum extent possible in a curriculum that is rigorous in academic, social, and behavioral expectations.
- Lilies, Sunflowers and P.B.I.M are mentoring programs offered.
- In addition students have the opportunity to participate in a plethora of sports activities such as basketball, flag football, cross country, jump rope, golf, track/field, tennis, and softball. In our enrichment and sports activities we have become accustomed to placing in these events.
- Students are given the opportunity to learn in their varied learning styles by providing them with options to demonstrate their understanding of the curriculum taught from the traditional academics to the eight exploratory classes (physical education, art, chorus, drum-line, drama, dance, library science, and computer technology) that are offered.
- All students, including students with disabilities and English language learners, are taught the same standards based curriculum.
- Enrichment, supplemental education services, and sports activities are open to all students and all students have a choice as to which of these activities he or she will partake.
- Students with disabilities and their non-disabled counterparts are provided related services together as a community.
- While we have a high population of students that are mainstreamed, we have a small sector of students that receive inclusion services.
- Through our partnerships with the YMCA, Chicago Cares, and Ravinia we provide a wide spectrum of programs

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### **Organizational Support**

- Libby Middle school is organized around the concept of team. We currently have the following teams in place:
  - Leadership
  - Grade level
  - Social
  - Discipline
  - ESP Staff
  - Student council
  - Administrative
  - Vertical
  - Committee
- The success of our middle school is built on a solid foundation put in place by all of the stakeholders.
- All teachers, administrators, and ESP staff believe in the vision and the mission of the our school
- We have a system of checks and balances to ensure that good educational practices are taking place on a consistent basis
- We have a school culture and climate that is conducive to a great work environment and a great learning environment

### **Focus for the Future—Continuing Improvement**

- **Continuous improvement on creating differentiated, student-centered learning environments.** As we continue to examine and monitor our data, our teachers work to ensure that the instruction is meeting the needs of all of our students. We are striving to create environments that meet the students where they are at and move them where they need to be.
- **Consistently use data to drive our instruction.** With the introduction of Scantron, a new computer-based benchmark test for grades 3-8<sup>th</sup>, the results and data are immediate. Our goal is to use this instant data to make instructional decisions and create learning groups for our students based on their strengths and needs.