

SCHOOLS TO WATCH

MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE



Evergreen Academy Middle School



Designated in 2009

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2009 School Statistics

(Illinois School Report Card, Chicago Public Schools Research, Evaluation and Accountability)

Community: McKinley Park neighborhood – 1.890 sq. miles – population 16,029

Demographics: White-28.9%, African American-0.49%, Hispanic-61.5%, Asian/Pacific Islander-7.70%, Other-1.55%

Enrollment: 431

Grade Levels: 6th, 7th & 8th

School Schedule

Regular Daily Schedule

Time	
8:55	Entrance
9:00	Tardy Bell
9:05-9:55	Period 1
9:55-10:45	Period 2
10:45-11:35	Period 3
11:35-12:45	Period 4 – includes lunch
12:45-1:00	Advisory
1:00-1:50	Period 5
1:50-2:40	Period 6
2:45	Dismissal

Advisory Day Schedule

Time	
8:55	Entrance
9:00	Tardy Bell
9:05-9:47	Period 1
9:47-10:29	Period 2
10:29-11:11	Period 3
11:11-11:53	Period 5
11:53-1:03	Period 4 – includes lunch
1:03-1:47	Period 6
1:47-2:35	Period 7 - Advisory
2:35-2:40	HR
2:45	Dismissal

Student Demographics

- 89.8% Hispanic
- 6.0% White
- 1.9% African American
- 0.2% Native American
- 2.1% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 96.1% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 19.3% English Learners

2006 Base: 67.9%

2008 Growth: 73.1% (up 5.2 points since 2006)

2008 AYP: Met 7 of 8 criteria

2009 AYP: Met 8 of 8 criteria

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Algebra 1, 8th grade
 - 70% pass rate on the high school exit exam
- Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)
 - Increase student study skills
 - Reading for content
 - Note taking skills
 - Cornell note taking – students question and reflect on what they have learned within a two column format.
 - Time management
 - Weekly/Biweekly learning logs
 - An outlet for students to share what was learned, ask questions about things that they are struggling with and to reflect upon the week's objectives.
- Honors Literature, 8th grade
- Advanced Placement Incentive Program using the Springboard College Bound curriculum for literature and writing
 - Literature circles within the literature program
- Math Thematics interactive hands-on mathematics curriculum
- Inquiry based Science curriculum from Science Education for Public Understanding Program
- Variety of instructional strategies
 - Small group
 - Individualized learning
 - Project-based and inquiry-based learning
 - Cooperatively learning
- Emphasis on extended response type questioning – each month a different subject area (Science, Social Science or Language Arts) chooses an article for the entire student body to read. The teachers collectively create a question for them to answer and then work within grade levels to score them using the state rubric.
- Before and After School programs for academic support and tutoring
- Co-teaching is encouraged in all classrooms

Developmental Responsiveness

- Departmental for all content areas
- Scheduling
 - Individual high-school type scheduling for the 8th grade
- Adult advocates
 - Advisory students will have the same adult advocate for all three years in attendance
- Daily Exploratory classes
 - Art
 - Library
 - Mandarin
 - Physical Education
 - Technology
- Advisory – 15 minutes daily – 47 minutes weekly
 - Small group
 - Same adult advocate for three years
 - Team building activities
- FISH philosophy

Schools to Watch – Taking Center Stage

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- Service Learning Project
 - Evergreen Ecology Club – developing ways to reduce carbon emissions within the school
- Technology within the classrooms
 - LCD projectors
 - SMART Boards
 - Document cameras

Social Equity

- Recognize ethnic groups represented within the community
- Mandarin language offered to all students
- Student online access to academic grades
- Parent participation
 - Local School Council
 - Parental Advisory Committee
 - Bilingual Advisory Committee
 - Online parent portal for parents to monitor student academics
- Employ the FISH Philosophy's four principles – Play, Be There, Make Their Day and Choose Your Attitude

Organizational Support

- Grade level and content area teacher teams
- Leadership team
- Weekly staff meetings
- Weekly grade level meetings
- Biweekly content area meetings
- Extensive relationship with community members, businesses, and academic institutions
 - Alumni Association from Williams College in Massachusetts
 - University of Chicago
 - University of Illinois at Chicago
 - Loyola University
 - Our Lady of Good Council's Teen Center
 - Robert Renteria, author of *From the Barrio to the Board Room*

Focus for the Future—Continuing Improvement

- Incorporate a more consistent music program
- Access to more technology within the classrooms
- Explore the possibility of incorporating peer jury type of restorative justice into the school as an intervention strategy