



KENTUCKY SCHOOLS TO WATCH SCHOOL PROFILE

Benton Middle School



2005-07 School Statistics

Community: Small town of 4, 127 in western Kentucky

Enrollment: 231

Grade Levels: 6-8

School Schedule: 7 period day

Student Demographics

1% Hispanic

98% White

1% African American

% Filipino

% Asian

% Pacific Islander

38% Free/Reduced Lunch

% English Learners

2005 AYP: 9/9

2006 AYP: 10/10

2007 AYP: 10/10

Designated 2008

Benton Middle School

- Marshall County Public Schools, Kentucky
- Principal: Kem Cothran
- School Address: 906 Joe Creason Drive
Benton, KY 41102
- Phone: 270-527-9091
- E-mail: kem.cothran@marshall.kyschools.us
- School Web site: www.marshall.k12.ky.us/bms/

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Engaging instruction incorporates Thoughtful Education practices
- Academic goals connected to state testing posted in every classroom
- Formal and informal assessments used to evaluate student progress
- Teachers maintain "Teacher Instructional Manuals" that are checked randomly by the principal
- Early release days provide time for teachers to focus on instruction and curriculum
- Students are provided with exemplars of proficient work
- Students are allowed to redo work
- Portfolio partners and school-wide writing plan
- Individual counseling with failing students at mid-term

Developmental Responsiveness

- Assessment parade and other student recognitions
- Anti-bullying program
- Sixth grade COOL (Continually Organizing Our Lives) class that focuses on organizational skills, transitions, and lifelong skills
- Instruction includes opportunities for students to move while in the classroom
- Identified students get secret mentors who make sure the students have their needs met
- Students write letters to the principal at the beginning of the year
- Student recognition, both academic and nonacademic, is everywhere
- All faculty participate in “Silent Mentor” program

Social Equity

- Regular education students are partnered with special needs students to assist them in the classroom
- Teach an awareness of and appreciation for diversity even though there is little diversity in the community or school
- Multiple intervention strategies used
- Students with disabilities are accepted and embraced by all
- Culture trees are in the front hallway
- All students complete Individual Learning Plans
- Guidance counselor presents monthly “Lets Talk” program dealing with current teen issues

Organizational Support

- Teacher Learning Clubs
- The principal is totally committed to making this school the very best
- Abundant support for new teachers
- Rules and expectations are posted throughout the building
- An old building has been made bright, cheerful, and welcoming for all by using school colors in various designs throughout the building
- Paintings and murals on the walls are incredible and evidence of the commitment to the whole student
- All faculty participate in three “one to one” conferences with principal to discuss assessments, curriculum, professional develop needs and goal setting
- School hosted Thoughtful Ed site visits yearly
- Faculty developed artifacts for the district curriculum document, SNAP
- Faculty participate in the Middle School Summer Institute at Murray State University