



KENTUCKY SCHOOLS TO WATCH SCHOOL PROFILE

Oldham County Middle School



Designated 2008

Oldham County Middle School

- Oldham County Public Schools, Kentucky
- Principal: Chris Kraft
- School Address: 4305 Brown Blvd
Buckner, KY 40010
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2005-07 School Statistics

Community: Suburban area near Louisville

Enrollment: 788

Grade Levels: 6-8

School Schedule: 4-periods (65 minutes) Wellness period of 35 minutes each day.

Student Demographics

- 5% Hispanic
- 89% White
- 3.5% African American
- .25% American Indian
- .4% Asian Pacific Islander
- 28% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 1.4% English Learners

2005 AYP: 13/13

2006 AYP: 12/12

2007 AYP: 13/13

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Big ideas posted in classrooms
- Students are provided clear expectations for assignments by teachers sharing sample work and using rubrics and scoring guides
- Teachers use a variety of questioning techniques
- Numerous structured opportunities for students to receive academic help
- Professional Learning Communities are used for reflecting on instruction and developing common assessments
- Teachers help students make connections between the curriculum and with real-life
- Literacy coach provides teachers with engaging activities that promote literacy across the curriculum

Developmental Responsiveness

- Students are recognized on a regular basis through positive postcards, Prize Patrol, pep rallies, Colonel Pins, team student of the week, CIA cards, and other initiatives
- A positive learning environment has been developed for all students
- Many school-sponsored activities both during and after school
- Wellness program
- Intramural sports program
- Administrators loop with seventh and eighth graders
- Student needs drive changes for school
- Students have voice through the Student Council, suggestion box, and Principal Lunch
- Variety of service projects including Colonel Service Day

Social Equity

- A school of inclusion with ECE students expected to perform to the same standards as other students but with some accommodations and modifications
- High level of respect between teachers and students
- Welcoming, supportive learning environment
- Very active PTSA with over 500 members
- Regular communication with parents and families
- Diversity is celebrated in a variety of ways (e.g., Festival of the Arts, through the curriculum, Heritage Month, Native American projects, learning songs in other languages, studying architecture of different cultures)
- The Festival of Arts is held every spring with all students participating
- Intervention Continuum has reduced office referrals

Organizational Support

- Doing what is best for students is the basis for all decision-making
- Elementary to middle transition is easy and nurturing
- Proactive in responding to a changing student population
- Great working relationship among the administrative team
- Teachers are comfortable talking with administrators
- The Intelligent Classroom's student responders are used by teachers to evaluate student understanding
- Extended media center hours to provide students with additional time to use technology/media and to work on projects
- Time is scheduled each week for Professional Learning Community team meetings
- Summer Reading Program and Summer Reading Celebration promote reading
- Take Home Tuesday—designated day for information to be sent home with students