

MICHIGAN SCHOOLS TO WATCH

MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE

Mill Creek Middle School



Designated in 2007

Mill Creek Middle School **District:** Dexter
County: Washtenaw **State:** Michigan

Principal: Jami R. Bronson

School Address: 7305 Dexter Ann Arbor Rd.
Dexter, MI 48130

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School Web site:

<http://web.dexter.k12.mi.us/~millcreek/index.html>

2007-2008 School Statistics

Community: Suburban
Enrollment: 621
Grade Levels: 7-8
School Schedule: A/B Block Schedule

Student Demographics

1%	Hispanic
96%	White
1%	African American
.5%	American Indian or Alaska Native
1.5%	Asian American
1%	Hispanic or Latino

7%	Free/Reduced Lunch
<1%	English Learners

2005 AYP: A

2006 AYP: A

2007 AYP: A

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Mill Creek uses an A/B day schedule, which utilizes large blocks of time and alternate days to give teachers the time needed to incorporate best-practice instruction.
- Offers Spanish, German, French, and Algebra One for high school credit
- Has established Professional Learning Communities allowing departments to develop common assessments, units, and common grading practices
- Students have over 40 electives to choose from, courses aligned to the state benchmarks offering enrichment and support.
- Use of a variety of authentic assessment
- Teams consisting of core content and special education staff
- Highly qualified staff who are experts at the middle level
- Several Interventions built into the elective day to help support students at risk
- Common Planning Time for academic teams

(Continued)

Academic Excellence *(continued)*

- All seventh grade students meet high school online requirement by taking required online Career's course.
- All students belong to a team creating a small community with the team
- Students with disabilities are part of the regular education program with accommodations

Developmental Responsiveness

- Conducts student led conferences – 99% attendance rate
- Has an established a Community Service and Leadership program where over 3000 hours or more are logged each year.
- Students are part of the teacher interview committee and are an integral part in hiring new teachers
- Over 40 electives offering student choices in their academic schedule
- Support programs for students in need
- Enrichment for students who master curriculum
- Student Planning Center allowing students to problem solve and develop better choices in situations.
- Character Education Program
- Well versed staff in use of technology and middle level best practices
- Monthly parent coffee hours
- Quarterly parent activities, brining families into school for fun activities and networking
- Parent and student access to grades online
- Online courses and book discussions part of general education classroom

Social Equity

- All students have access to general education program with support form special education staff
- Year long Problem Solving Olympics to teach students problem solving and collaboration
- Bi-weekly intervention involving academic teachers, counselor, social worker, and administration, to discuss each students academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs.
- All students have ability to be part in student council. Upon leaving middle school each student may be part of planning after school activities and a participating in a leadership role.
- All students are invited to participate in after school activities, lock ins, dances, sports, and music...
- Extensive Art and Music curriculum for students to choose from.
- Student work posted through out classrooms and building
- Students accessed early in the year on learning styles and share information and strategies with parents.
- Community connections established with elementary buildings, local businesses, and universities.
- Student Study teams to help develop programming and interventions

Organizational Support

- A/B Block Scheduling
- Common Planning time for Teams
- Release time for departments to prepare common assessments, units, and common grading practices
- Team Leader planning time
- Teacher time to observe peers teaching
- Building Leadership Team established to plan useful professional development
- On going building and department review of student achievement, discipline, and attendance data
- Team websites, homework sites, and homework hotlines for student and parent use.
- Ongoing professional development
- Book Clubs established – Professional dialogue