

NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS TO WATCH

MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE

Medford Memorial Middle School



Designated in 2009

Medford Memorial Middle School • Medford Township Public Schools • Burlington • Phillip Petru, Principal
• 55 Mill Street, Medford, NJ 08055
• Tel (609) 654-7707, Fax (609) 654-7297
www.medfordmemorial.org

2009 School Statistics

Medford has distinguished itself as one of the premiere suburbs of the Philadelphia area. Nestled within the beautiful landscape of the South Jersey Pine Barrens, Medford is conveniently located in Burlington County in close proximity to both the Jersey Shore and the city of Philadelphia. A diverse town within itself, the historic district of Medford Village provides for a fun and unique experience, while the great schools, recreational facilities, and neighborhoods make the town a great place to live! (Source: Township of Medford Website)

Enrollment: 692

Grade Levels: 7-8

School Schedule: The school implements a modified block schedule. Students have four academic blocks that allocate 55 minutes to their core subjects daily. There is also one additional 55 minute block daily for Spanish, Health & PE, music and art which alternate each marking period. A 40 minute enrichment period is also offered on a daily basis where students select his/her classes from a variety of electives.

Student Demographics

- 1.3% Hispanic
- 95.2% White
- 1.4% African American
- 2% Asian
- 0% Pacific Islander
- 2.5% Free/Reduced Lunch
- .14% English Learners

Visit the New Jersey Department of Education
<http://www.state.nj.us/education>
to view this school's data for prior years.

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- High-level student work is evident across content areas with many interdisciplinary connections.
- Technology is not taught as a separate subject; rather it is integrated across all content areas.
- The school emphasizes the use of essential questions and differentiated instruction.
- The school uses multiple forms of data to discuss student progress and modify instruction.
- High school credit is available for algebra and Spanish.

(continued)

Developmental Responsiveness

- The school has a daily 40 minute enrichment period where students explore interests such as environmental issues and creative writing or can take challenge courses such as forensic science, TV technology, public speaking, computer animation, music, or Spanish.
- The administration holds a monthly luncheon where students can discuss issues and provide suggestions. These conversations have contributed to changes in school dances, access to the school's courtyards, and locker and backpack policies.
- The school offers more than 40 clubs, sports, and activities. Approximately 75% of the students participate in at least one activity.

Social Equity

- In response to student behavior issues, the school implements the Positive Attitudes Winning Strategies (PAWS) program. As an alternative to out-of-school suspension, PAWS requires reflection and reinforces positive behavior and service.
- The school uses a pre-teaching model for students in need of extra support. The University of Pennsylvania is providing feedback on the program.
- Community college students are available two times a week to provide mentoring and tutoring to students in need of support.

Organizational Support

- The school is organized into smaller learning communities/teams. Teams meet weekly to discuss student progress and plan interdisciplinary activities.
- The school has leadership teams focused on change, improvement and professional development.
- The Memorial Advisory Council includes school staff and parents who meet on a regular basis to discuss school programs and initiatives.
- The school uses Genesis to keep parents informed and has a homework hotline. The principal and vice principal also communicate with parents using web messages on key issues.
- Faculty meetings are teacher-led and focus on professional development, not housekeeping issues. The school has a three-year template for faculty learning focused on Understanding by Design and differentiated instruction. The school is piloting a two hour delayed opening for professional development.