

OHIO SCHOOLS TO WATCH

MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE

Willard Grizzell Middle School



Designated in 2007 Redesignated: N/A

Willard Grizzell Middle School * Dublin City Schools
Delaware County * Tim Barton – Principal
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2005-07 School Statistics

Source: Ohio Dept. of Education Report Card

Community: 50,000 in city of Dublin - 13,500 students
Enrollment: 700 students
Grade Levels: 6-8
School Schedule: 8:15-2:55 PM Aug. 25-June 4

Student Demographics

<1%	Hispanic
89%	White
<1%	African American
8%	Asian
<1%	Pacific Islander
<1%	Free/Reduced Lunch
<1%	English Learners

2005 AYP:	Met
2006 AYP:	Met
2007 AYP:	Met

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Each teacher supports the concept that failure is not an option ... not for students, not for teachers.
- Our focus is on student learning. We are committed to the professional learning community concept and are moving continually toward it.
- We strive to answer four basic questions: How can I ensure that each individual student takes with him/her from my class all the essential knowledge and skills? How will I know when this happens? What does a high level of learning for all mean and look like for students in my class/school district?
- Regular, effective, on-going formative assessments actually guide our classroom instruction
- Summative assessments are used to identify a student's understanding or lack of understanding
- We're striving to put learning targets into kid-friendly terminology
- Curriculum mapping and differentiation in the classrooms help all students draw connections between subjects and apply what they've learned to real-world situations.
- Parents have a clear understanding of expectations of each individual subject along with team goals and rules
- Our schedules are somewhat flexible within the core subject areas to allow time for extended projects and hands-on experiences
- We have a full time teacher coach who offers mentorship to teachers and provides time for teachers to visit each other's classrooms.

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Developmental Responsiveness

- The expectation that all students can grow and learn is maintained regardless of the disability a student may possess.
- It is the responsibility of every teacher at GMS to accommodate every student's unique and individual needs.
- Our staff believes there is no typical middle school student. To meet individual needs we believe in interdisciplinary teaming, time flexibility in teaching, standards-based curriculum; exploratory programs, student activities, multi-age grouping, mental and physical health and strengthening of students' self-concepts.
- Our advisory program, in its beginning stages, is designed to allow staff to get to know students intimately and serve as a sounding board for all types of issues including bullying, ethnic issues, etc.
- All students are included in the general curriculum and we provide the necessary supports to make this possible for all students.
- All teachers and staff strive to create thoughtful lessons and deliver differentiated instruction to meet the needs of all students (both those who need additional support as well as those who need enrichment and challenge)
- Intervention specialists are utilized as co-teachers in general education classrooms and collaborate on a weekly basis with general education teachers to assist in creating an environment inclusive for all students as well as preparing materials and lessons to meet those unique needs of all students.
- For students with the most significant of disabilities, the general education curriculum is adjusted and modified to meet the individual cognitive level of each student.
- Our Character Counts program has grown to encompass a morning video announcement program that keeps students informed about daily activities as well as providing information on the various pillars of character. The program is also effective in our discipline program. Positive behavior is rewarded with a Pillar of Pride

Social Equity

- All GMS staff are highly qualified teachers committed to helping each child succeed
- Our facility is state of the art with five computer labs as well as small clusters of computers in most rooms.
- Each room is equipped with a telephone, Internet access, a flat screen tv and vcr/dvd player. Science classrooms have lcd projectors. Additional equipment is available through the school library
- Our media center houses over 25,000 items. The media specialist is the Chair of the Diversity Council whose mission is to share cultural variations, traditions and beliefs. Multicultural tenets are embedded in all curricular areas.
- While the staff is homogenous, we do have over 500 years of teaching experience.
- We offer an Alternative Learning Center (ALC) experience where students complete assignments in a structured setting.

Organizational Support

- All staff members have copies of the GMS philosophy and are committed to the vision of Professional Learning Communities. Parents, students and community are being brought into the PLC's as well
- Study groups, led by the teacher-coach, have explored various professional resources and share insights with the staff.
- Our district has a Strategic Planning Committee with members from the GMS parent and staffing community. An active subgroup of the committee has visited school districts around Ohio and in other states.
- The GMS administrators and PTO staff meet often
- The GMS School Improvement Team represents the total school community and meets monthly to review our yearly improvement plan. We are committed to change when data demonstrates that change is needed.
- Our building is a magnet for student teachers from The Ohio State University, Capital University, Otterbein, and Ohio Dominican Universities because of our reputation for quality teaching staff.
- The Diversity Council is a direct result of further need in our community to student and understand cultural differences