

OHIO SCHOOLS TO WATCH

MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE

Solon Middle School



Designated in 2007

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2005-07 School Statistics

Community: Size/characteristics
Enrollment: 898
Grade Levels: Grades 7 and 8
School Schedule: Traditional and Block

Student Demographics

Hispanic	1.1%
White	72.5%
African American	14.6%
Filipino	0%
Asian	8.7%
Pacific Islander	less than 1%

Free/Reduced Lunch	5%
English Learners	1%

2005 AYP: Met
2006 AYP: Not Met
2007 AYP: Met

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Interdisciplinary teams to enhance and ensure student learning
- Use of power indicators and I can statements to guide instruction
- Well-developed Common Assessments for each unit of study
- Formative assessments to monitor student learning and to allow students to self-assess their learning
- Reading Writing workshop model in Language Arts
- Conceptual math process in Math
- Collaboration, exploration, hands-on inquiry, and problem-solving in Science
- Real world context as well as local and global connections in Social Studies
- Level I Foreign Language for all students
- Integrated technology in all disciplines
- Flexible scheduling—both traditional and block schedules
- Focused, data-driven instruction
- Rich Job-embedded Professional learning via common planning time
- Sharing of best practices in collaborative team meetings

(Continued)

Developmental Responsiveness

- Students are teams to create smaller learning environments
- Pyramid process as response to intervention
- Intervention assistance for students imbedded within the school day
- Quarterly coffee nights for parents to address current middle school topics and concerns
- Student-driven school activities and community service projects
- Course offerings like Dare/Decision-making, Career Education, Study Skills for social development

Social Equity

- Inclusion on each team
- Differentiated instruction
- Academic support time on all teams
- Clearly defined rules and consequences
- Equal access to technology
- Equal access to school field trips
- Academic, athletic, and general student recognition programs

Organizational Support

- District mission-driven decision-making
- Shared leadership with teacher leaders
- Teacher collaboration and professional learning
- Vertical articulations with upper elementary and high school
- High levels of staff accountability for student learning
- Strong mentor program for new teachers
- Strong Parent-Teacher Association works collaboratively with the SMS