

# OHIO SCHOOLS TO WATCH

## MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE

### Spinning Hills Middle School



#### Designated in 2006

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### 2005-07 School Statistics

(Source: Ohio Achievement Test 2007)

Community: Size/characteristics  
Enrollment: 543  
Grade Levels: 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>  
School Schedule: Flexible

#### Student Demographics

NC%	Hispanic
82%	White
8.6%	African American
NC%	American Indian
6.1%	Multi Racial
NC%	Pacific Islander
14.4%	Students with Disabilities
53.6%	Free/Reduced Lunch
NC%	English Learners

2005 AYP: Met

2006 AYP: Met

2007 AYP: Not Met Students with Disabilities only

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

### Academic Excellence

- Flexible Scheduling provides teachers the autonomy of scheduling classes that meet the needs of each classroom.
- The use of quality rubrics and ACE writing programs to ensure students know expectations.
- Curriculum maps created by the teachers based on the State Standards
- Short Cycle tests and AIMS Web testing to ensure that we have data on every student and know what their strengths and weaknesses are
- Student Data Binders that help students track their progress in each core subject
- Baldrige Framework used to ensure that students and teachers are tracking progress and utilizing the best teaching practices.
- Integration of technology and traditional teaching strategies to meet the ever changing needs of students.
- A mixture of full inclusion and resource rooms to meet the varied needs of our special needs students.
- Student led conferences allows our students to explain their grades, data and their strengths and weaknesses to their parents.

(Continued)

### **Academic Excellence** *(continued)*

- Lunch time brings both a homework detention for students that have not completed homework and rewards in the form of a board game room and computer lab time for students who are completing their homework
- Units are planned to have multiple types of assessments, authentic, traditional and projects are all incorporated into the unit planning.
- Leveled and differentiated instruction is planned on a daily basis for all classrooms and students.

### **Developmental Responsiveness**

- Monthly pull out programs with Counselor and Therapist to review age appropriate topics (Bullying, Study Skills, Social Skills)
- Positive Behavior Support is used to reward good behavior and to set goals for students and teachers.
- Programs with the Riverside Police Department on Internet safety and responsibility
- Building wide stations 2 times a year to mimic expected behavior for hallway, lunch room, recess, restroom and on the bus.
- A full time school therapist that works with individual students and families to provide needed services and resources for all that need them
- At Risk students are monitored through the “Response to Intervention”. RTI teams use data and interventions to help students reach their potential.
- We have created a Community Service program that has replaced most suspensions. Students clean stairwells, pick up trash, pull weeds and shine chrome to positively give back to the school for their negative actions.

### **Social Equity**

- Each student is scheduled into classes with high expectations and highly qualified teachers
- A combination of full inclusion and resource rooms are used to meet the needs of all students with special needs
- Advanced students are provided with acceleration programs such as project soar and advanced gifted placement.
- All students have the opportunity to have their pictures taken and placed on our Indian Pride Bulletin Board each month
- After school intramurals and clubs are offered to all students with a variety of different activities to choose from
- A diverse population with a high military presence allows us to celebrate many cultures, holidays and events.

### **Organizational Support**

- Wright Patterson Air Force Base programs such as Starbase, a science program that all 5<sup>th</sup> grade students participate in for 4 full days
- United Health Services provides during and after school assistance with low income students. Programs, field trips, snacks and homework help is provided.
- Parent and business volunteers come to our school and work with students as reading tutors or classroom volunteers that work on specific skills and programs hand in hand with the teachers.
- Collaboration with administration and teachers helps to foster high levels of teacher involvement in shared leadership positions.
- Professional Learning Communities are utilized to allow professional development to occur monthly
- Effective and efficient operations of school allow for the environment to be a safe place where education and respect are our priorities.
- Staff and student handbooks are provided to ensure all parties understand the rules and procedures of the school.
- A strong PTO helps with programs for parents, student movie nights, dances, tutoring and other programs.