

OHIO SCHOOLS TO WATCH

MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE

Wantz Middle School



Designated in 2006; Redesignated 2007

Wantz Middle School • Miamisburg City School District •
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2005-07 School Statistics

Community: Urban fringe of a large city
Enrollment: 788
Grade Levels: 7 & 8
School Schedule: 6 period day – Team plan – Four
core subjects, Academic Enrichment, Special area

Student Demographics

5.3% African American
0% Native Alaskan
2.9% Asian/Pacific Islander
1.8% Hispanic
3.1% Multi-Racial
86.6% White
25.5% Economically Disadvantaged
0.5% Limited English Proficient
13.5% Students with Disabilities

2005 AYP: MET

2006 AYP: MET

2007 AYP: NOT MET (Special Ed. Reading ONLY)

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Students involved in keeping track of their own learning/progress (Progress Book)
- Grade level articulation for a seamless transition
- Common Assessments administered in Math, Science, Social Studies and Language Arts
- Departmental time provided to review common assessments and plan intervention
- Curriculum alignment across grade levels and departments have mapped standards
- Accelerations in math that include Geometry being offered to 24 students in 8th grade
- Common team planning time for interdisciplinary planning
- Best Practice teaching strategies utilized to assist students in visualizing the “Big Picture”.
- Students provided choices of interests and opportunities to problem solve through discovery/inquiry
- Community Service Projects: Teams planning ways to honor & serve our community – ex. Veterans Days
- Individual Learning Plans: Students setting goals (current year and futuristic)
- Expectations for standards-based Ohio Achievement preparation via on-line programs at home
- Technology-based lessons via inter-write pads and computer labs
- Clubs/activities to support academics: Power of the Pen, Math Counts, Newspaper, Mock Trial
- 2007-08 focus on differentiated instruction techniques to reach all learners
- All 8th grade students are assessed on a Career Development program and develop a career plan
- An Ohio Achievement Assembly provides academic competitions and goals prior to testing dates

Developmental Responsiveness

- Students involved in creating a Positive Behavior Supports matrix for our school
- 40 Developmental Asset training for students, teachers and support staff
- Peers for Peace: a day for 8th grade teams to gain a greater understanding of diversity issues
- BRAVO Day for 7th grade (Building Relationships that Actively Value Others)
- Activity Period – 6 times per year to allow students to belong to a club of interest
- Library Connections: During lunch, a place for students to develop positive relationships
- Service Learning community based projects in 8th grade – Team based
- Activity Leaders – Students lead activities (basketball, corn hole etc.) during lunch break
- March Madness – Staff/student competitions and relays the afternoon before spring break
- Peer Mediation – Allows students to take leadership roles in solving conflicts among peers.
- Mentoring Program to match students with an adult for special events outside of the school day
- Active PTO that sponsors social activities for students as well as supports the academic programs
- Exploratory classes in art, music, foreign language and technology enrich the curriculum

Social Equity

- Intervention provided in the classroom as well as after school and through special programs
- ESL support for students as well as staff members
- BRIDGES Community Diversity forum plans educational opportunities for parents and community
- Teachers utilize data on a daily bases to drive student learning and intervention practices
- Nova Net program utilized for short-term interventions
- SMART after-school program (Student Moving and Advancing on the Right Track)
- All students are scheduled into rigorous classes
- A Renaissance Program recognizes students each quarter for good grades, behavior and attendance
- Students are recognized for perfect attendance each grading period by principals/counselors making sundaes for them one day during lunch
- Students of the Week and Students of the Month receive recognition in the local newspaper
- PTO sponsors an Honors Breakfast each grading period for students who make the Honor Roll
- Burgs Eye View is a monthly television program that allows students and staff to share accomplishments and events that are happening at Wantz Middle School.
- School office referrals and suspension have declined more than 50% over the past 3 years

Organizational Support

- Staff development is embedded in our school district. Our 2007-08 focus: differentiated Instruction
- Teachers take leadership roles in staff development opportunities
- Parents are provided information to increase their knowledge on Ohio Standards and parenting practices including the 40 Development Assets and Media Wise
- School personnel attend meeting/conferences sponsored by the State of Ohio to keep us focused on new trends and technology support that is available to our teachers.
- Building goals drive our planning and curriculum revisions
- Data is utilized on a daily bases by teachers and students to guide the learning process
- Department leaders organize opportunities for teaches to analyze data and share lesson plans that have proven successful on a particular strand or standard.
- Teachers play an intricate role during staff meetings by sharing ideas from conferences or interdisciplinary units that have proven successful.
- Wantz Council meets monthly to discuss organizational issues and complete a book study. Current year reading *Fair Isn't Always Equal: Assessing and Grading in the Differentiated Classroom* by Rick Wormeli