

UTAH SCHOOLS TO WATCH

MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE

Sunset Ridge Middle School



Designated in 2007

Sunset Ridge Middle School • District: Jordan • County: Salt Lake • State: Utah • Principal: Catherine Jensen • School Address 6881 W. 8200 S. West Jordan, UT 84088 • Phone (801) 412-2475, E-mail: catherine.jensen@jordan.k12.ut.us

2005-07 School Statistics

Community: West Jordan, UT. 2007 Population - 100,280, Characteristics: suburban (*source: Wikipedia, 4/16/08*)
Enrollment: 1116 (*source: Jordan School District demographic data, 4/9/08*)
Grade Levels: 7-9
School Schedule: Traditional 7-period day with teacher advisory.

Student Demographics (*source – school demographic data, 4/9/08*)

24.0%	Hispanic
70.7%	White
1.0%	African American
0.6%	Native American
NA	Filipino
2.3%	Asian
2.3%	Pacific Islander
28.9%	Free/Reduced Lunch
4.2%	English Learners

2005 AYP: N/A
2006 AYP: Yes
2007 AYP: Yes

(*source – Jordan School District testing data*)

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- High standards held for all students
- School-wide disclosure statement was collaboratively developed and adopted.
- “Total Quality Work” is expected.
- Special education students have equal access to curriculum (inclusion in all classes except math)
- Teacher Advisory program provides an adult advocate for every student.
- Departments have common curriculum and create curriculum maps with common assessments.
- We have adopted the “Rigor and Relevance” framework.
- Interdisciplinary teams collaborate to develop creative, real-world lesson plans.
- A variety of teaching, learning, and assessment strategies are used.
- RISE (Remediate, Improve, Stretch and Excel) days/activities provided.
- Each student has access to tutoring and individual remediation in the Skills Center during the school day as needed.

(Continued)

Developmental Responsiveness

- Teachers are continually trained in the development needs of early adolescent learners.
- Teacher Advisory classes provide an adult advocate for each student.
- The school is organized into small learning communities.
- The guidance program provides students with educational counseling, career exploration, responsive services and access to other support systems.
- Use of a variety of instructional strategies.
- A variety of encore classes is provided.
- Teachers make connections across disciplines to reinforce important concepts and address real-world problems.
- Student-led conferences are held twice yearly.

Social Equity

- Each and every student has access to before school, after school, and lunchtime tutoring.
- Pyramid of interventions in place to ensure success.
- “Total Quality Work” is expected from each student.
- Generous school-wide late work policy – students have extra opportunities for mastery.
- Students are given choice whenever possible to demonstrate mastery with rubrics to help students know
- Each student has access to tutoring and individual remediation in the Skills Center during the school day as needed.
- Best instructional practices.
- Teachers are continually collaborating and reflecting on current assessment and adjusting instruction as needed.
- Through the inclusion model, all students have equal access to the curriculum with support and accommodations provided.
- School culture is one of mutual respect and understanding.
- Reward systems are in place to recognize students for a variety of accomplishments.

Organizational Support

- Teachers are organized into teams that are provided with weekly, scheduled collaboration time.
- School expenditures are made towards supporting middle school philosophy.
- Hiring of school staff is based on each applicant’s willingness to support our school culture of collaboration.
- Professional development opportunities, both local and national, are provided to staff members.
- Educational leadership at both the school and district level remains cohesive in the dedication to do what is best for students.