



SCHOOLS TO WATCH MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR’S GUIDE



Belmont Ridge Middle School Loudoun County, Virginia



2009 STW Designation

Belmont Ridge Middle School

- Loudoun County Public Schools • Loudoun County, VA
- Mr. Timothy J. Flynn, Principal •
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<http://cmsweb1.loudoun.k12.va.us/bmrms/site/default.asp>

2008-2009 School Statistics

(Sources: 2009 Star Base Student Ethnicity Summary)

Community: Loudoun County, VA
 Enrollment: 1148
 Grade Levels: Six, Seven, and Eight
 Schedule: Four-Block Alternating Schedule

Student Demographics:

- 70% White
- 4% Hispanic/Latino
- 14% Asian/Pacific
- 9% African American
- 2% Non Specified
- 8% Special Education
- 5% Economically Disadvantaged
- 48% Male
- 52% Female

2006 Fully Accredited, Made AYP
 2007 Fully Accredited, Made AYP
 2008 Fully Accredited, Made AYP

**2008 and 2009
Governors Award for Academic Excellence**

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence:

- Selected by the Governor of Virginia as a 2009 School of Educational Excellence.
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- 2009 Loudoun County Public Schools School/Business Partnership Award.
- Data Room meetings in the content areas focus on the academic success of all students.
- Frequent common formative assessments in the core areas provide evidence to drive instruction.
- High yield instructional strategies are planned and implemented during common planning.
- Foreign Language is introduced in grade six in our Spanish in the Middle School program.
- French, Latin, German, and Spanish are taken for high school credit starting in grade seven.
- Each classroom is equipped with an engaging Promethean Interactive White Board.
- Awards recognizing our learners for academic success occur in each grade each quarter.
- Algebra I at the Middle School Level is the academic expectation for all students.
- Our master schedule supports increased learning time for all students in mathematics.

Developmental Responsiveness:

- Our facility is designed to support our learners with individual buildings for each grade.
- Each grade is staffed with its own Dean, Counselor, and Secretary who travel with the learners.
- Interdisciplinary Teaming fosters the integration of curriculum and consistent practice.
- Each student has at least three adults who know them well and can provide support.
- Our Parent Liaison provides and facilitates connecting our families with outside agency support.
- At-risk students are regularly reviewed by teacher-teams with the Dean to provide assistance.
- Exploratory classes in art, music, drama, technology, and foreign language enrich the curriculum.
- Belmont Ridge is a safe, clean, supportive, and technologically advanced learning facility.
- A resource block is scheduled for each child to provide time for homework and remediation.

Social Equity:

- High Academic Expectations are clearly established for all students in all courses.
- Individualized plans of assistance provide specific programs so all can meet these expectations.
- Belmont Ridge United our student, parent, staff team focuses on minority student achievement.
- Minority Student Achievement is embedded within all academic areas of our improvement plan.
- The Belmont Ridge Equity team has worked, trained, and provided support to all faculty and staff.
- Parent information dinners hosted by BRU highlight strategies to increase academic achievement.
- Special education students are included in our classrooms using a co-teaching instruction model.
- International Night highlights all cultures and showcases our foreign language department.
- Our goal is for every student to be in at least one honors class during their middle school years.
- Our classroom libraries and our school media center select material that represents our diversity.
- Language Arts classrooms vary assessments and allow students choice in the selection of material.

Organizational Support:

- Our annual School Improvement Plan is a living document that captures our current goals.
- A master schedule has been designed to provide team planning and content planning.
- The administration empowers teachers to develop their professional learning community.
- Our professional development includes parents who partner with use in our efforts.
- Professional development is a vital piece of our school and is continuous and available.
- Each grade level includes three interdisciplinary teams led by team leaders and the Dean.
- Each student is on a team whose teachers share a common interdisciplinary team planning time.
- Vertical planning provides smooth transitions from grade five and to grade nine.
- Effective routines and systems allow teachers to focus on learning data and learning