

# VIRGINIA SCHOOLS TO WATCH

## MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE

### Blue Ridge Middle School



#### Designated in 2008

Blue Ridge Middle School • Loudoun County Public Schools • Virginia • Principal – Roberta Griffith • School Address – 551 East A St. Purcellville, Va. 20132 • Phone 540-751-2520  
E-mail Roberta.Griffith@loudoun.k12.va.us

### 2005-07 School Statistics

*This information came from the Virginia Department of Education's School Report Card.))*

Community: Size/characteristics semi-rural/fast becoming suburban spread over a large geographic area.

Enrollment: 1,182

Grade Levels: 6 and 7

School Schedule: AB Block schedule

#### Student Demographics

% Hispanic – 5.25%

% White – 87.99%

% African American – 3.55%

% Filipino - 0

% Asian – 2.37%

% Pacific Islander - 0

% Free/Reduced Lunch – 4%

% English Learners – 1%

2005 AYP: - Made AYP

2006 AYP: - Made AYP

2007 AYP: - Made AYP

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

### Academic Excellence

- Combined Academic and Honors classes
- Combined American History and Language Arts Classes
- Daily Independent Reading Time (We Dig DIRT!)
- Spring Festival – a Celebration of Learning
- Writing Partnership with Loudoun Valley High School
- Howard Hughes Science Training for Teachers
- Outdoor Classroom
- “A Trail to Every Classroom”

(Continued)

### **Developmental Responsiveness**

- Extensive transition program with 9 feeder elementary schools
- T.V. Show
- Student surveys
- Counseling groups (Children of Alcoholism, Changing Families, Girls' Group (making friends), Boys' Group, Study Skills
- Peer Helpers
- Mix It Up Day
- High School Mentor Program
- Extensive Outreach programs through Leo Club, Student Council
- Activity days – 50 offerings of clubs/activities during the school day
- Recess during lunch

### **Social Equity**

- Active Equity Team
- Staff development on equity issues
- Spanish Outreach Night

### **Organizational Support**

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade team and 7<sup>th</sup> grade team make up one House, staffed with a Dean and a Counselor. Most students stay in the same house for two years.
- Teams share common planning time
- Students have a “resource” period during the day so they can work with their own teachers
- School day allows for a 15 minute DIRT time during lunch block
- Department chairs (called Salts) are given an additional planning period
- Two department meetings a month before school allow for planning and program analysis.