



SCHOOLS TO WATCH – TAKING CENTER STAGE

MODEL SCHOOL – VISITOR’S GUIDE



Harper Park Middle School

2009 -2010 School Statistics

(Sources: 2009 API Growth Report; 2009 AYP Report)

Community: Leesburg, VA - Suburban
Enrollment: 884
Grade Levels: 6-8
School Schedule: Block

Student Demographics

- 12 % Hispanic
- 63 % White
- 12 % African-American
- 9 % Asian
- .1% Native American

- 17% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 5 % English Learners

2006-2007 Made AYP
2007-2008 Made AYP
2008-2009 AYP: Met 27 of 29 criteria

(Visit <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ar/index.asp> to view this school’s data for prior years.)



Designated in 2010

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<http://cmsweb1.loudoun.k12.va.us/hpms/site/default.asp>

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- 2009 Virginia Governor’s Award for Educational Excellence
- Tremendous increase in SOL scores over past four years
- Yearly theme is chosen based upon identified needs – this year is “The Year of the Number”
 - All subjects incorporate math into their lessons to reinforce math skills
- Cross-curricular teaming and content teaming is incorporated within the school day
- Benchmark Assessments are utilized to identify areas which need additional instruction
- Common assessments are created by all departments
- After school Team Work Lab and SOL Enrichment classes meet weekly
- House level staff meetings led by Deans focus on Rick Wormeli’s Differentiated Grading – Why Fair Isn’t Always Equal
- High standards for all students is the expectation
- Engaging and purposeful lessons must be created by teachers for students – lessons are monitored often by staff by walkthrough observations

(Continued)

Developmental Responsiveness

- Master Schedule change to meet the needs of students and teachers
- Guidance Counselors and Deans stay with their students all three years
- Connections – student advisory meets for relationship building activities that support developmental and academic growth
- Mentoring program
- Double block of math and additional reading class for those students identified needing assistance
- Many after-school activities offered to all students

Social Equity

- School and Equity Team focuses on:
 - Creating and sustaining a positive school climate
 - Establishing caring relationships
 - Demonstrating high expectations
 - Implementing culturally responsive instruction
 - Maintaining inclusive parent and community involvement
- Faculty Book Studies –
 - Gary Howard's [We Can't Teach What We Don't Know: White Teachers, Multiracial Schools](#)
 - Fred Jones: [Tools for Teaching](#)
- Many opportunities to celebrate diversity
- Strong mentoring program
- Low suspension rate

Organizational Support

- Master schedule includes time for cross curricular and content team planning
- All staff involved in the creating the SIP
- Walk-through observation schedule helps ensure purposeful instruction
- Community and parental support is encouraged
 - School volunteers
 - Business Partnerships
 - DASH (Dads at School Helping)