



VIRGINIA SCHOOLS TO WATCH VISITOR'S GUIDE



Hidden Valley Middle School *Helping Students Find Their Wings Since 1972*



Designated in 2009

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2007-08 School Data

(Source: 2007 Virginia School Report Card)

Community: Hidden Valley serves the southwest portion of Roanoke County, a suburban district surrounding the cities of Roanoke and Salem in the mountains of western Virginia.

Enrollment: 797
Grade Levels: 6-8
School Schedule: 7-period day

Student Demographics:

5.8% African American
0.1% American Indian
6.2% Asian or Pacific Islander
1.3% Hispanic
86.5% White

10.6% Free/Reduced Lunch
3.8% English Language Learners

2005 AYP: Yes
2006 AYP: Yes
2007 AYP: Yes

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- ◆ Committed to rigorous, high standards while supporting students' efforts to reach them
- ◆ Instructional time is valued and protected from interruption
- ◆ Common planning time facilitates the efforts of academic teams to collaborate and function as professional learning communities
- ◆ Relevant learning connects with students and helps students make connection across disciplines through integrated learning experiences such as GPS projects, watershed projects, Ellis Island simulation, Tolerance & Diversity study, trout release project, Book Publishing Companies, Colonial Days, art/world languages projects, Country Fair, and Roaring 20's Day
- ◆ Daily critical thinking is promoted with "ASK!" posters displayed in classrooms with question prompts
- ◆ Students are challenged to develop high expectations for themselves through participation in Math Counts, Destination Imagination, Science Fair, PTA Reflections Contest, Oratorical Contest, music competitions, and public art displays
- ◆ Balance literacy plan includes sustained silent reading and reading across the curriculum for all students in addition to targeted reading interventions through data-driven Individual Reading Intervention Plans
- ◆ Extra help is provided on a daily basis through flexible homeroom time
- ◆ Technology is well integrated into learning experiences as a tool to promote learner engagement and make real-world connections
- ◆ Over 40% of the student body is involved in music programs which include before-school jazz ensemble

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- ♦ Innovative programs such as synergistics lab allow for academic skill building within relevant applications
- ♦ "Justice For All" study involves community partners facilitating Mock Trial culminating event
- ♦ Accelerated math program allows students to take geometry in grade eight
- ♦ Soaring Eagles recognize students and staff who excel in the school and community

Developmental Responsiveness

- ♦ School counseling services provide services through individual sessions, groups, and classroom lessons.
- ♦ Groups include Girl Power, Here I Am, Relationship Skills, Changing Families, and New Students
- ♦ Classroom counseling includes bullying, careers and goals setting, and Youth Connection
- ♦ Know Invisible Students/No Invisible Students adult advocacy process asks students to name staff members with whom they feel comfortable talking and teams use this information to volunteer as adult advocates
- ♦ Transition services and activities include articulation with schools, open house nights, student and parent tours of elective areas, orientation to meet teachers, Natural Helpers, and individual goals and planning sessions for 8th graders
- ♦ Student Assistance Program (SAP) intervenes when behaviors impede success; groups include life skills, anger management, conflict resolution, and substance abuse counseling
- ♦ Electives allow students to explore interests in music, art, technology, world languages, drama, journalism, and computer skills
- ♦ Journalism students produce a daily news and features program via HVTV as well as a student newspaper
- ♦ Music and art students explore their talents in the community through events like Jazz Night for which students play with professional musicians and art displays in public areas in the Roanoke Valley
- ♦ Clubs and school athletics also provide opportunities for a sense of belonging
- ♦ Clubs are often student initiated and include Chess Club, Art Club, Crochet and Knitting Club, Equestrian Club, Step Team, Builders Club, Book Club, and Book Club
- ♦ Community Service builds students' self esteem as they help others. HV students perform over 5,000 hours of community service each year through Builders Club, Hidden Heroes, Prevention Club, SCA, and a service project required of all 8th graders.
- ♦ Wellness and physical activity initiatives are led by innovative practices in Health/PE classes, Wellness Committee, and Nutrition Services

Social Equity

- ♦ There is no permanent tracking; students may take advanced classes in areas of individual strength
- ♦ Pre-AP classes help students develop skills for later success
- ♦ Master teachers are assigned to teach students of all levels
- ♦ Full continuum of services offered for special needs students including collaborative settings for gifted, ELL, and special education
- ♦ Low Zero policy emphasizes the importance of completing quality work and involving parents
- ♦ Students are not allowed to fail solely due to homework
- ♦ TNT program targets students at risk for academic failure to promote work completion
- ♦ HV has been recognized by the Virginia Holocaust Museum for study of tolerance
- ♦ Celebrate Diversity! display in lobby (a collaboration between art students and Diversity Committee) highlights the 24 countries in which HV students were born

Organization Support

- ♦ Continuous school improvement is ensured by Roanoke County Accreditation Process (RCAP)
- ♦ Our framework for change includes mission/values, data, research, and action
- ♦ School Literacy Plan is in development based on multi-faceted, balanced approach designed to meet the needs of all students
- ♦ Teaming practices and guided and sustained through Teaming Guidebook which includes two areas of focus: Relationships & Student Advocacy and Relevance & Rigor
- ♦ Staff understands and designs learning experiences centered around the R's: Relationships X Relevance X Rigor = Results
- ♦ Professional development is transitioning to a job-embedded model centered around teams
- ♦ Positive reinforcement of best practice efforts is provided through principal's Friday Focus including the regular column "HV Teachers Walking the Talk"
- ♦ Classroom Walkthrough data is used to guide professional development needs