

VIRGINIA SCHOOLS TO WATCH

MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE

Saunders Middle School



Designated in 2004; Redesignated 2007

Saunders Middle School, Prince William County, Virginia
Principal: Catherine Puttre
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2005-07 School Statistics

Community: mid-size suburban
Enrollment: 1115
Grade Levels: 6 - 8
School Schedule: Modified Block

Student Demographics

Hispanic: 20%
White: 39%
African American: 28%
Filipino: 3%
Asian: 4%
Pacific Islander: 6%

Free/Reduced Lunch: 22%
English Learners: 14%

2005 AYP: yes
2006 AYP: no
2007 AYP: no

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Rigorous Courses of Study
- Extended Curriculum
- On-going Remediation
- In-house Gifted and Talented
- Blue Ribbon Music Department
- Inclusive Special Education Department
- Use of Multiple Assessments
- Standards Driven Curriculum
- Opportunities for Experiential Learning

(Continued)

Developmental Responsiveness

- Homework Club
- Differentiated Instruction
- Advisory Program
- Student Members of SCA report to Principal
- Family Support and Communication: *School Fusion*; IGPro; email; parent conferences; monthly newsletter; Website includes televised daily announcements;
- Many after-school activities and clubs reorganize at the change of report periods

Social Equity

- Participation in Clubs and Sports representative of school population
- Adoption of Block Scheduling to accommodate interventions, remediation, and enrichment
- Many levels of Student Recognition for both Academic Achievement and Behavior Improvement
- Provision of late buses everyday at 5 PM; Tues/Thurs 4 PM also.
- Field trip fund supported by PTSO for needy students

Organizational Support

- Strong Mentor Program
- On-going Self-evaluation
- Parent Advisory Council
- Parent Volunteers widely used
- Open to Student Teachers
- On-going Professional Development
- Site-Based Managed
- Individualized School Plan