School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

**Academic Excellence**

MMS utilizes technology to provide parents and students access to exemplars and rubrics for assignments. Teachers at MMS incorporate authentic learning experiences such as archaeology digs, timeline projects, and engineering projects to provide students with opportunities to apply their knowledge. Students are assessed in a variety of ways both formatively and summatively to provide teachers with a deep understanding of student needs and progress.
Developmental Responsiveness
The staff at MMS works hard to create a personalized environment that supports each student's intellectual, ethical, social, and physical development. Teachers at MMS partner with local organizations and have developed support services to meet the needs of students with behavioral, social, and emotional challenges. Through integrated curriculum units and the use of various technology, Monticello Middle School strives to build bridges, strengthen learning connections, and reduce growth gaps.

Social Equity
Students at MMS explore their own and others' cultures through literature, face to face interactions, and global technology and regularly participate in classroom conversations about the contributions of people from a variety of backgrounds. Technology has enabled our students to interact with students from around the world to better understand different viewpoints, traditions, and beliefs, as well as share their own. Students with IEPs participate in encore classes that best suit their schedules and academic needs, enrichment assignments and activities are provided for students who quickly master content, and RtI placements are fluid.

Organizational Support
MMS fosters instructor learning through common planning periods, administrative collaboration days, professional development days, and the continuation of higher education for its staff members. Teachers design and participate in book studies designed to maximize collaboration and improve teaching. Our recent implementation of Fastbridge testing, specifically in the area of social emotional learning, has led staff to analyze student data and request further professional development in the area of SEL.