

BELHAVEN MIDDLE SCHOOL



2017-2018 SCHOOL STATISTICS

Designated in 2012

Re-Designated in 2015, 2018

Community Size - Suburban

School Enrollment - 4000

Grade Levels - 5, 6, 7, 8

School Calendar - Traditional

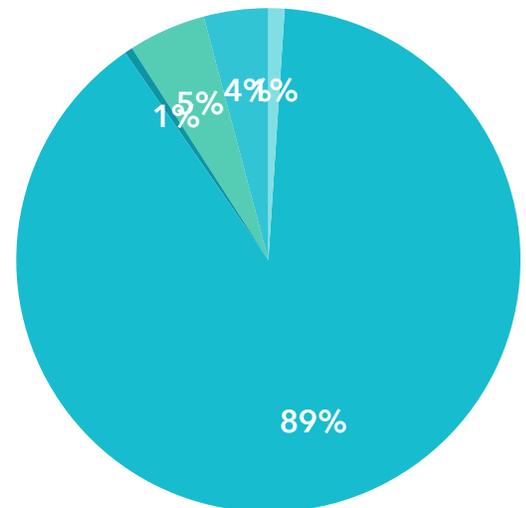
Free and Reduced Lunch 7%

English Learners 0.3%

Students With Disabilities 14.8%

Belhaven Middle School
Linwood Public Schools
51 Belhaven Ave, Linwood, NJ 08221
Tel (609) 926-6700
Principal - Susan Speirs
<http://www.linwoodschoools.org/>

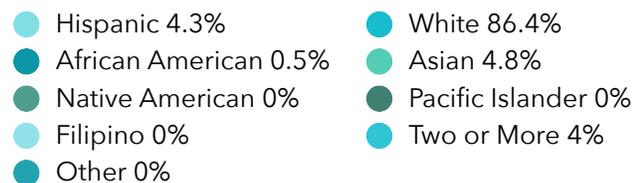
2017-2018 School Demographics



School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Belhaven celebrates STEM, and adds an A for the Arts, which gives us STEAM.
- We invite in community leaders for STEAM Career Education, and student attend STEAM field trips, work with a Shopbot CNC router, web based Whiteboxlearning Dragster 2.0 and 3-D printing and design in our invention studio.
- We have hosted a Girls Only STEAM night to build excitement about STEAM education, and held a whole-school, full day STEAM Career Fair in March. New this year, Innovators Challenge Club takes students through the invention/innovation process.



- SPEAK is a class for grades 5 through 8 that focuses on public speaking and technology, including robotics, broadcasting, and entertainment technology. We combine character education when students create and broadcast public service announcements.
- 5th grade has incorporated cross-curricular STEAM lessons in ELA, for example, "The Popsicle Stick Bridge" is a story about children working together to build a bridge and become friends. Students then make bridges and hold weight contests in class. "Girl Can't Dance" is a story about a girl that becomes famous after a video is posted online without her permission. Students then plan, film, and edit commercials with a common theme, "Pause before you Post."
- Service learning is incorporated into ELA as student volunteers participate in Read Across America at the elementary school and public library or get hands on with puppies for a Service Dog Unit in 5th Grade ELA.

Developmental Responsiveness

- On the first day of school, our fifth graders arrive to walk a red carpet lined with eighth grade "paparazzi" holding welcoming signs as the principal announces each fifth grader on the megaphone.
- Incoming fourth graders participate in "Falcon Camp" which is led by our seventh grade student leaders who serve as peer mentors, with the goal of easing anxiety of transitioning to a new school.
- We have an Academic Pep Rally that serves as recognition of academics, character, and school spirit. Awards are presented by staff and students, and the fun events within the rally center around the year's theme.
- On the last day, Eighth graders exit on the red carpet with the student body, parents and staff cheering and clapping them out. They also leave a legacy on our "Wall of Acceptance" in the form of a tile they design with art and a personally meaningful, inspirational quote.
- Our Social Studies teachers hold regular class meetings based on the Olweus model, while this year piloting Committee for Children's new Web-based Social Emotional Learning Program for Middle School Students to enhance these skills. Teachers also use technology integration to teach current events through the use of Flocabulary.com which is an educational hip hop resource. Our Health curriculum also includes lessons on important mental health topics.
- Our activities stress student leadership. Incoming 8th graders are invited to Leadership Camp in August to set the tone for the year and give students a real say in what happens at school, as they develop goals and ideas for their grade and the whole school. 8th grade leaders also develop theme based activities and decorations.
- Each grade level has its own Street Team, which is a team of student leaders who run social events for school climate and culture, while also taking part in service learning and volunteer opportunities. Sporting events include our Blue and Gold Basketball Game in which two teams of eighth graders and teachers compete while the school unites to cheer them on, and our Powder Puff game, where the girls played as the boys served as their cheerleaders, which was initiated fully by student leaders.
- Belhaven Baristas, in which students practice self-help and social skills while gaining work experience and meeting academic goals in a real world environment of a coffee delivery service. As their slogan says, "Brewing Independence, One Cup at a Time."

- In an attempt to create a personalized environment to support student development, while also reaching students in smaller communities and offering exploratory opportunities, our school has created a unique program called Explorations. Explorations is a set time each day which is tailored to each student's needs: recess, remedial assistance such as the Wilson program, Spanish instruction, study hall, and enrichment. Our advisory time is also built into the Exploration period on a bi-weekly basis to add another close mentor-type relationship into each student's experience.

Social Equity

- Our curriculum director has implemented new criteria for identifying students who qualify for Title 1 services in order to provide accelerated, short-term interventions for students such as tutoring, supplemental classes, and other supports.
- Thanks to grants, all students use Chromebooks or laptops to do research and analyze data. All students participate in Industrial Technology class to learn to use more cutting edge technology.
- Our school's reward system, Student of the Month, is based on a positive Character Trait of the Month.
- All students participate in service learning projects like Socktober, Belhaven loves Houston, Skate for Change, a collaboration with the Atlantic City Rescue Mission, and the Empty Bowls project. The Empty Bowls project has students and Art club members as well as staff, creating and decorating bowls for charity.

Organizational Support

- Community partnerships have allowed such programs as "Fine Arts Focus" in which our Art teacher, working with our Spanish, SPEAK, and Industrial Technology teachers collaborated with parents to create an arts enrichment experience based on the works of great artists. The students and parents hang artwork and articles culminating in RTV announcements and a trivia contest, all to expose student to new artists.
- In order to boost our shared vision, this past year saw the establishment of two new staff driven committees: School Climate and Discipline. Staff, student and parents feedback had indicated that improvement in these areas would propel the school forward and both committees have been active in driving improvement.