



# SCHOOLS TO WATCH – VIRGINIA

## J. LUPTON SIMPSON MIDDLE SCHOOL – VISITOR’S GUIDE

### J. Lupton Simpson Middle School



**Designated in 2016**

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<http://www.lcps.org/jlsm>

### 2015-2016 School Statistics

*Sources: Loudoun County Public Schools and the VDOE school report card*

Community: Suburban Washington D.C.  
 Enrollment: 1026  
 Grade Levels: 6-8  
 Schedule: Alternating Block

- Student Demographics**
- 63% White
  - 20% Hispanic
  - 5% African American
  - 7% Asian
  - 5% Multi-Racial
  - <1% Native American
  - 19% Economically Disadvantaged
  - 16% Special Education
  - 6% English Language Learners

Fully Accredited by VDOE:	2015
Math Pass Rate >80%:	2015
English Pass Rate >83%:	2015
Science Pass Rate >87%:	2015
Writing Pass Rate >78%:	2015
History Pass Rate ≥89%:	2015

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

### Academic Excellence

- Instructional technology initiatives such as Loudoun Creates, iREADY, Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) and Interactive Achievement
- “One to the World” instructional framework creates greater student ownership of learning by addressing an authentic problem through use of technology allowing for teacher, student and peer collaboration resulting in a public product
- Instructional frameworks such as Literacy Journey, WICOR (from AVID), and Cornell Notes
- Instructional assessment practices to include quarterly benchmarks, common assessment & instruction
- Reteaching and Retesting practices
- Instructional communication through the Weekly Bulletins, Phoenix and CMS Webpages
- Instructional monitoring through walkthroughs, observations, and audits
- Pre- and Post- assessment practices tied to teacher goal setting and professional practices
- Literacy Committee
- School Improvement Team
- Math 8 special scheduling allowing for math every day through skinny block design
- Common planning time for Math, English, Science and Social Science teachers as part of PLC/CLT framework
- English & Math classes utilize the three part objective creating conditions, behavior and measure of and for learning
- Literacy Journey instructional framework for Language Arts & English classes creating Reading/Writing workshop model
- Wide range of course offerings to include career & technical education, music, art, world language and math for high school credit
- Resource blocks
- Silent Sustained Reading initiative
- Special transportation services for students to access higher level math & world language classes at local high schools

- Each classroom is equipped with a Promethean Board, Wi-Fi, tablets, and access to both desktop and laptop computers.

## Developmental Responsiveness



- Grade level interdisciplinary teacher teams discuss and respond to students needs
- Words of Wisdom is a weekly character ed program giving students “something to think about” and letting them know that “the choice is yours” / W.O.W. is communicated by announcement weekly
- Award ceremonies recognizing academic achievement and students exhibiting good character
- School Counseling Groups & Services
- Community Service Opportunities
- Variety of after school club programs
- Musical enrichment / Jazz Band & Select Chorus
- School Musical
- Orientations and transition services
- Spectrum and Gifted Services
- Competitions in areas such as Art, Music, Math, Science, Reading, Writing, and more
- Spirit Days
- Academic Decathlon Team
- Battle of the Books Team
- Math Team
- Science Team
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Day
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Trip
- PBIS and Mustang Bucks

## Social Equity



- College in 6 partnership with George Mason University exposing all 6<sup>th</sup> graders to college life
- Use of internet based tools such as IXL Math and iREADY for reading instruction
- Hand scheduling of child study, special needs and ELL students
- Club Runs – voluntary running program through the PE department
- 19 after school clubs such as Winter Sports, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Latino Student Association, Chess, Art, Spanish, German, Yearbook, Student Council and more
- Spring musical – drama
- Music – Solo & Ensemble assessment opportunities for students wanting more opportunity to learn and grow
- International Night is a multicultural activity celebrating our culturally diverse school
- Spanish Speaking Parents Night occurs four times a year to bridge communication between home and school allowing parents to better understand teaching, learning and resources available to Spanish speaking families
- Positive Behavior Incentive Support (PBIS) & Simpson School Ambassadors (SSA)
- G.R.E.A.T. character education program sponsored by Leesburg Police & School Resource Officer
- Additional financial assistance for those in monetary need
- Back-Pack Buddies program providing food for the weekend for families that are food insecure
- Special assemblies and activities honoring our diverse communities
- Tutoring for areas such as math, language arts and world languages
- Mentoring
- School supplies provided by Kids R First for those in need
- Interpreters provided as needed for special events and meetings
- Learning specialists are included in academic settings to support the needs of students with disabilities.
- CHANCE is a program available to all students with disabilities in need of unique support
- Spanish Fluency class for high school credit to develop reading and writing skills of native Spanish speakers
- AVID College Readiness providing support to students who are traditionally underrepresented in higher education
- After school childcare program through partnership with Loudoun County Parks & Recreation
- Activity Buses offered for those staying after school in need of transportation support
- College Funding Coach a financial workshop for parents and students to better plan for the costs associated with higher education
- Participation in “Middle School Night” at C.S. Monroe Technology Center

## Organizational Support



- Professional learning environment
- Communication via Connect Ed a robo callout system allowing schools to reach parents by phone or email with Spanish language capability
- Synergy's Phoenix On-line Grading tool allowing for parents and students to monitor academic performance regularly
- Master scheduling with focus on gap groups
- School Improvement Team responsible for utilizing online accountability tool Indistar
- Grade level administrators provide leadership to each student grade
- Weekly administrative meetings which includes principals, assistant principals, deans and counselors
- Weekly school guidance counselor meetings
- Weekly CLT/PLC disciplinary meetings / common planning time on B days for core subjects
- Bi-monthly Interdisciplinary Team meetings by grade level / common planning time on A days for teams
- Monthly meetings for full faculty, school leadership, department, and committees to improve student learning
- PBIS monthly meetings
- Simpson School Ambassadors (SSA) program / staff leaders meet monthly with SSA trained students
- Leesburg Police Partnership providing School Resource Office
- Monthly meetings with parent teacher organization (PTO)
- Faculty & Staff, student and parent surveys to collect data on all aspects of school community
- Professional development opportunities for teachers throughout the year
- Transitional process from elementary to middle school and from middle school to high school
- 23 different Community Service Initiatives and Volunteer Outreach opportunities
- Over 30 different business partnerships