



## Field Middle School

*Insert photo  
of school here.*

Field Middle School • West Northfield School District 31 •  
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### 2014-2015 School Statistics

(Sources: 2013-2014 Illinois School Report Card)

Community: West Northfield School District 31 is comprised of two schools: one elementary school in the town of Glenview and one middle school in the village of Northbrook. This diverse community is located approximately 20 miles north of Chicago.

Enrollment: 309

Grade Levels: 6-8

School Schedule: 8:37am-3:30pm

#### Student Demographics

- 11.7% Hispanic
- 53.1% White
- 3.6% African American
- 0% American Indian
- 30.4% Asian
- 0.3% Pacific Islander
- 1% Multi-racial
- 22% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 10% English Learners
- 7% Students with Disabilities

#### 2014-2015 PARCC Data:

- 58% Meets and Exceeds- ELA
- 51% Meets and Exceeds- Math

(Visit [to view this school's data for prior years visit: www.d70schools.org](http://www.d70schools.org).)

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

### Academic Excellence

- Development of PLC model to align district strategic plan with a focus on student growth and outcomes. District and school leaders were trained as SMART Trainers through the Consortium for Educational Change.
- Field has developed a middle school schedule focused on student learning. Math classes have been extended to 60 minutes daily. ELA classes are 80 minutes daily. Social Studies and Science classes are 40 minutes daily.
- Field has “special” offerings including opportunities to have 40 minutes of Spanish daily and 40 minutes of a fine and applied arts daily.
- Field has used the new middle school schedule to provide an array of intervention options including executive functioning, literacy and reading supports, and math intervention and strategy offerings.
- Seventy percent of the staff has been trained in the Rush Neurobehavioral Research Based Executive Functioning Program. Through this program, students are explicitly taught organization and study skills.

- Within the last three years, math aligned the math curriculum with the *Math Common Core Standards* and re-worked the math levels and courses accordingly, as well developed a curriculum map and adopted the *Big Ideas* math program.

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- During the 2013-2014 schoolyear, the science teachers unpacked the *Next Generation Science Standards*, updated the science courses, scope and sequence and adopted the *Interactive Science* program. In 2014-2015 all social studies teachers were trained in document based questions (DBQs) through the *DBQ Project*. The Spanish curriculum has been adapted according to the practices of OPI (Oral Proficiency Interview), which focusses on the oral proficiency of foreign language.
- Although Field Middle School has had an applied technology exploratory arts rotation for many years, the curriculum and infrastructure of the STEM lab has been updated. All sixth grade STEM students learn manual drafting skills while seventh grade STEM students use the manual drafting skills they learned in sixth grade, combined with new learning about physics and aerodynamics to design, build, test, and race a CO2 dragster. Following the dragster project, seventh grade students learn additional drafting skills through the new whole-class Computer Aided Drafting and Design (CADD) module. Eighth grade STEM students apply their learning from sixth and seventh grade in a brand new curricular addition, “3-D Printing: Vehicle Engineering.” This curriculum is a comprehensive application of many skills within the realm of STEM and beyond.
- Our advisory curriculum has undergone updates over the last two summers to ensure inclusion of the social emotional learning standards, updated resources, service learning, and executive functioning components. In addition, experts in the building travel as guest speakers to the advisory to talk about important topics.
- In 2013-2014, District 31 implemented a 1:1 device program at Field Middle School. All students were given an iPad to use at home and school.

## **Developmental Responsiveness**

- Transitioning to middle school includes many activities to alleviate the fears of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents. The principal meets with incoming parents in the winter/spring of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade year to discuss curriculum, transition, placement and middle school in general. In the spring, the principal visits each 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms to discuss Field, answer questions, and invite them to Field for lunch and a tour. The tours are led by current 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Articulation and placement meetings between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers begin in the spring. Transitioning our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to high school begins in the fall. Articulation between high school and middle school content areas occur in the fall. In 2013, we initiated a parent meeting to discuss the high school transition process from the middle school point of view.
- The pancake breakfast, held on the Sunday before the start of the school year, is an important tradition at Field that brings in nearly 90% of our families. Not only do students pick up their schedule, locker and lock, they get to walk their schedule, set up their locker, and get their iPad. In addition, several of our teachers set up informational booths on afterschool activities, communicating with parents, physical education, etc. Our school nurse sets up a table to answer questions and facilitate the transfer of medicine and health forms, while our secretaries help with questions about food service, buses and many other things. Our parent organizations distribute school supplies, sell spirit wear and advertise ways for parents and students to get involved in activities. For students new to Field we have a scavenger hunt designed to get them oriented with the building. In addition, all students and their families can enjoy a free breakfast.
- Recognizing that more and more middle school students are showing signs of depression, self-harm, or suicidal ideation, our social worker and psychologist began programming during the 2012-13 school

year designed to pro-actively support all students. Working with Elyssa's Mission, we have yearly trained staff and students using the *Signs of Suicide Program*, including the ACT acronym (Acknowledge, Care, Tell). Thanks to this program, many students have recognized signs that their friends may be in crisis and have learned how to get help from an adult. In addition, we have done a suicide screener with all students.

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- We have maintained a school wide behavior program through *Safe and Civil Schools*. Our focus continues on encouraging our students to use their *GPS for Success*. *GPS for Success* stands for “growth, pride, and service,” at Field. *Growth* stands for responsibility and decision making. *Pride* is respect for yourself and others. *Growth* represents leaders and citizens at work. We are constantly reinforcing the idea that students need to use their *GPS for Success* in all areas of life. In addition, our behavior team will be participating in a three year *Safe and Civil Schools* cohort with other schools to continue to develop additional positive behavior strategies and structures to continually meet the needs of our changing student body.
- Leadership is an important quality we continue to try to instill in all of our students. The *GPS for Success* not only emphasizes what appropriate behavior should look like, but also offers suggestions about how students may model leadership level behavior. In addition, our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students participate in a Leadership Day that offers speakers, team building activities and reflection. With guidance from teachers and guest speakers, each student tackles the concepts of trust, determination, responsibility, respect and tolerance. The facilitators also work to help students feel connected with classmates, teachers, and the entire community. Leadership Day culminates in a 8<sup>th</sup> grade excursion to the *Feed My Starving Children* plant where students are tasked with packing meals for those in need.
- Student led conferences take place in the spring for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and in the fall for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. These conferences provide students with an opportunity to talk to adults about their educational progress. During the conferences, the students share is or her educational goals, progress, an examples of their work. Together, the student, teachers and parents determine what each will do to help the student move closer to the student's educational goals. Students spend several weeks in advisory preparing for this meeting.

## **Social Equity**

- Service Learning continues to be a big focus at Field. Sixth grade students are initiated into the world of service learning through their leadership in the school recycling program. In addition, they plan and implement a 5K run/walk to raise money for various charities, researched and chosen by the students. Seventh grade students, as part of an advisory curriculum which emphasizes changing and growing, focus their service on helping senior citizens. Students are encouraged to develop empathy. Seventh grade students visit senior homes three times a year and plan crafts, play games and spend time talking with, and listening to, the seniors. The year culminates with a “Senior Day” in May where seniors from the community are invited to the school to participate in oral histories and to share memorabilia and stories. Eighth grade students practice their letter writing skills as part of a learning project that has them working with organizations such as Amnesty International and Habitat for Humanity. Students, working in groups, adopt not-for-profit organizations, and then work together to raise awareness and funds for “their” cause. Eighth grade students spend a day volunteering and packing meals for “Feed My Starving Children.

- After a number of years when budgets for activities were cut at a district level, Field Middle School is thrilled to offer a variety of activities for all students for the 2015-16 school year. In addition, the school provides a free late bus three days per week open to any student who wishes to participate in activities. In addition, due to the addition of a general activity fee paid by parents as part of the annual registration costs (covered for kids in financial need), there is no additional fee to participate in any of these activities.
- *GPS for Success* has recently become the motto and buzzword school wide, as we consistently encourage our students to ponder how they will demonstrate *Growth, Pride* and *Service* in their daily activities and decision making. The GPS slogan is displayed throughout the school building and reinforces our adoption of the *Safe and Civil Schools* behavior intervention program.

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### **Organizational Support**

- The Field Middle School community continues to cultivate a shared vision for our school as represented by our mission statement, “Building Futures. Inspiring Minds—Together. We are currently in year one of our strategic plan, which focuses, in part, on student growth and achievement, community outreach, and shared leadership. The district is restructuring itself during the 2015-16 school year to create various district and school levels teams and PLCs trained around using data and SMART goals to better focus on student outcomes and achievement.
- During the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school year, Field Middle School went through a two year study guided by the following goals:
  - Increase math minutes to correlate with the Common Core math study
  - Provide increased opportunities for interventions and support
  - Create a common bell schedule that provides for increased teaching efficiency
- Our newly designed PLC model help promote shared leadership through a structure of District Leadership Team, School Leadership Team, and departmental level PLCs. The focus of PLC is around the the following four essential questions:
  - What do we expect our students to learn? (Goals/Expectation)
  - How will we know they are learning? (Assessment)
  - How will we respond if they don't learn? (Intervention)
  - How will we respond if they already know it? (Enrichment)
- All classrooms are now equipped with document cameras and wall mounted LCD projectors. In addition, each student and staff member is equipped with an iPad that can be used at home and at school as part of our 1:1 initiative. Teachers also have laptops. We are currently in the process of evaluating our 3-year 1:1 implementation and making the decision of whether or not to maintain the program with new iPads or to transition to Chromebooks.
- We have two active parent organizations, the Parent Teacher Club and the Education Foundation. The PTC provides yearly financial gifts as well as volunteer support. Our Education Foundation is a fundraising group that recently committed to ensuring 1:1 technology district wide. They just initiated a new two year focus of “STEAM.” They are fundraising \$60,000-80,000 over the next two years to update the Field Middle School STEM lab (completed) and makerspaces to the elementary school.