



SCHOOLS TO WATCH – VIRGINIA

HARMONY MIDDLE SCHOOL – VISITOR’S GUIDE



Harmony Middle School



Original designation in 2014

- Harmony Middle School • Loudoun County Public Schools
- Loudoun County, VA Eric Stewart, Principal •
 - 38174 West Colonial Highway, Hamilton, VA 20158
 - Tel (540) 751-2500, Fax (540) 751-2501
 - <http://www.lcps.org/harmony>

2016-2017 School Statistics

(Sources: Student enrollment as of May 6, 2014 using School Profile and 2013 VDOE report card)

Community: Suburban Washington D.C.
 Enrollment: 1079
 Grade Levels: 6-8
 School Schedule: Alternating Block

Student Demographics

- 84% White
- 6% Hispanic
- 4% African American
- 4% Asian
- 3% Multi-Racial
- 7% Economically Disadvantaged
- 13% Special Education
- <1% English Language Learners

Fully Accredited by VDOE:		2011 to 2016 average
Math Pass Rate	>80%:	2011 to 2016 average
English Pass Rate	>85%:	2011 to 2016 average
Science Pass Rate	>90%:	2011 to 2016 average
Writing Pass Rate	>80%:	2011 to 2016 average
History Pass Rate	≥90%:	2011 to 2016 average

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- The inclusion of Collaborative Learning Teams (CLT) that create specific “Learning Targets,” set levels of mastery, and the use of formative assessments to guide instruction and assessment.
- CLTs engage in data analysis to identify instructional approaches that are working and to identify areas for extra practice.
- The continued implementation of teams to connect learning across curricular content areas.
- The implementation of Reading/Writing workshop model across all Language Arts classes and the use of literature circles and writing groups in Language Arts to foster critical thinking and collaboration.
- Students and staff participate in our annual 40 Book Challenge to promote reading and the importance of lifelong learning.
- Science teachers attend annual training at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute to learn engaging lab ideas and to promote science literacy for students through inquiry instruction.
- Resource sections for remediation and to allow students time in their schedules for extra practice, remediation, or enrichment.
- Rigorous, common assessments based on Blooms Taxonomy are designed to promote higher thinking skills.
- Each classroom is equipped with a Promethean Board, WiFi, and access to both desktop and laptop computers.

Developmental Responsiveness

- Each student is placed on a team (Hive Time), allowing students to create identities within the larger school, and providing a safe set of teachers who get to know and work together to address individual needs of students.
- Students are recognized each marking period for academic success in addition to two students from each team receiving “Cornerstone” awards, which recognize traits of leadership, scholarship, effort, in addition to excellence in math, reading, and writing.
- The Harmony Counselors Department leads small group sessions, classroom lessons on bullying, careers, study skills and more. Furthermore, the counseling department pairs students in need of a mentor with a student from our feeder high school.
- The Safe School Ambassador and other programs provide training on identifying bullying and teaches techniques for selected students to intervene in bullying situations.
- Many clubs offered by faculty members as well as community members offer students the opportunity to explore their interests while developing socially and emotionally. Clubs include the Mad Scientist Club, Anime, Running Club, Chess Club, Ping Pong, Drama Club, and more.
- The Student Council Association provides students the opportunity to practice leadership skills while giving students a voice in planning the events that occur in school. Harmony’s SCA has spearheaded events that raise great funds and supplies for groups such as local food pantries, the American Cancer Society, and more.
- The Harmony Art Departments hosts an annual Family Arts Night designed to promote appreciation for the arts, show off their work, and raise money for the local food pantry at the same time. The annual event provides students the opportunity to engage in the curriculum while learning what it means to be an active citizen in the community.

Social Equity

- The Leadership Team brings professional development to the staff designed to promote awareness of different learning styles. To this end, CLTs build tiered assessments that allow students to demonstrate mastery at different levels of thinking.
- Instructional specialists are included in classes to support the needs of students that have an IEP, creating open access to regular education classes. To that end, ~97% of special education students are enrolled in regular education classes.
- 80% of students enroll in a foreign language class in seventh grade.
- All students participate in clubs and other programs, open to all students in any grade.
- The Harmony PBIS system recognizes positive behavior in students, promoting improvement, success, and citizenship.
- All administrators are tasked to memorize the names of students in an entire grade level for the “Name Game” (where every student is named).

Organizational Support

- The Harmony W.E.B (Where Everybody Belongs) Program eases the transition to middle school long before students leave the elementary school. Eighth graders serve as W.E.B. leaders who serve as yearlong mentors to students, teaching them skills necessary for success in middle school through advisory period.
- Faculty members have leadership opportunities in the building, serving as team leaders, CLT leaders, and Subject Area Leader Teachers (SALTs). This shared leadership creates a strong sense of community and accountability for student success.
- Teachers constantly involved in staff development at state, county, and building levels in order to encourage new ways to approach curriculum.
- Parent communication through weekly email newsletters, PHOENIX grade program, and active involvement in school allows parents to be connected and part of school community and student success.
- Business partnerships with local businesses allows for community involvement in the day-to-day activities in the school and for students to be involved with the community around them.