



SCHOOLS TO WATCH – VIRGINIA

MONTEVIDEO MIDDLE SCHOOL – VISITOR’S GUIDE



Montevideo Middle School



Designated in 2015

Montevideo Middle School
Rockingham County Public Schools, Harrisonburg, VA
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2015-2016 School Statistics

(Sources: Student enrollment as of May 2016, student data compiled from Powerschool and the current VDOE school report card)

Community: Rockingham County, VA
Enrollment: 675
Grade Levels: 6-8
School Schedule: Alternating Block

Student Demographics:

- 70% White
- 21% Hispanic
- 2% African American
- 2% Asian
- 5% Multi-Racial
- 40% Economically Disadvantaged
- 9% Special Education
- 9% English Language Learners

Fully Accredited by VDOE:

Math Pass Rate	91%
English Pass Rate	79%
Science Pass Rate	83%
Writing Pass Rate	72%
History Pass Rate	97%

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Technology is used as a tool to support high levels of student learning as we grow toward a one-to-one digital convergence in the 2016-17 school year.
- Interdisciplinary teaching practices engage students at high levels within the core curriculum and exploratory classes.
- The daily lab period allows for remediation, homework completion, or enrichment which provides a strong system of support tailored to student needs.
- The master schedule includes common planning time for teachers to collaborate, share best practices, and work together to analyze student data.
- A flexible, after-school tutoring program is offered through-out the year so students can stay for extra help as needed.
- Teachers are encouraged to participate in our “Peer Poaching” program in an effort to glean new instructional strategies from colleagues within our school building.
- Nearly half of our student population qualifies for our honor club annually by earning all As and Bs while demonstrating appropriate school behavior.

Developmental Responsiveness

- The leaders, teachers, and staff are knowledgeable of their students due to regular student-centered communication via team meetings, parent conferences, and individual conversations.
- An intentional transition process allows rising 6th grade students and their families to become familiar with all aspects of the middle school.

- Our counseling department works closely with students through individual and small group sessions, in addition to offering “lunch bunch” discussions, classroom lessons, and special programs such as anti-bullying and positive peer relationships.
- The YES (Youth Experiencing Success) program, our in-school alternative education classroom, is fundamental in supporting struggling students by providing a low student-to-teacher ratio and an environment where students can receive academic as well as behavioral support.
- The “I’m Determined” program provides middle school students the skills and knowledge to develop into responsible young adults.
- Model Mustangs, a PBIS program, is in place to support the foundation of good decision-making and to promote positive behavior in the school.
- We offer a strong exploratory arts program including STEM classes, elective music program, drama, and foreign language.
- Our peer tutoring and work study classes allow general education students to work with special education students in an inclusive setting.
- Students are active in our PTSA by attending monthly meetings with the executive board to share student concerns and ideas.
- Annual student attendance rates typically exceed 96%.
- We implement an effective schoolwide discipline plan based on the six pillars of character education.

Social Equity

- Equal opportunities exist for all students to access the curriculum through the use of technology.
- Special education students with intellectual disabilities, multiple disabilities, and autism are supported and included to the greatest extent possible.
- Grade level and co-curricular field trip opportunities are plentiful for all students to access learning outside of the school building.
- Advanced classes that are challenging and relevant are available for all students.
- “Backpack of Hope” program for economically disadvantaged students provides food assistance to families over the weekends.
- “Lend a Hand Lockers” are designated throughout the building where students can share anonymous concerns with administration.
- A wide offering of afterschool clubs and sports appeal to different interests of our diverse student body.

Organizational Support

- The administrative staff is strong and supportive of the students and teachers in the building.
- Master schedule is purposeful and structured in a manner to maximize student learning opportunities in the building.
- The administrative staff listens to the concerns of students, teachers and parents and has problem-solving processes in place to address issues.
- A growing partnership with local universities (JMU, EMU, Bridgewater, Mary Baldwin) exists to support professional development, the development of pre-service educators, and student outreach where our middle school students may take field trips for academic growth, appreciation of the arts, and college planning.
- Our on-going professional development reflects best practices and aligns with our strategic plan.
- Staff members have been trained in restorative practice, threat assessment, and gang awareness as part of a proactive effort in school safety.
- We follow a shared vision of high expectations with a focus on student achievement and growth.
- Students are celebrated regularly through academic, athletic, and artistic displays.