School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

**Academic Excellence**

*Apple Distinguished School 2019-2021*
*Wide range of professional development opportunities available to staff to ensure they are prepared to meet the diverse needs of middle school learners*
*Instructional Practices Inventory used to measure student engagement. Data notes that 95% of our classes are actively engaged at all times*
*Teacher complete over 100 peer observations annually*
*Highest mark in all areas of effectiveness on University of Chicago’s 5 Essentials School effectiveness report*
*Up-to-date, research-based practices to drive teacher instruction
*Rigorous academic program for all students
*Success is rooted supportive community, staff, parents, and students

**Developmental Responsiveness**
*Countless opportunities are provided for student voice to be recognized and celebrated
*Students and staff actively participate in community outreach opportunities to give back to the school community
*Student focus groups help inform change process, including recent transition to standards-based grading
*Students are encouraged to attend parent-teacher conferences along with their parents in order to participate in the conversations regarding their progress in each class
*Student Risk Screening Scale (SRSS) administered bi-annually to identify potential student risk behaviors and provide support as needed
*Teachers utilize a multi-tiered systems of behavior and academic supports for all students
*Students provided ample opportunities for leadership and community service
*School is committed to student's intellectual, ethical, social, and physical development

**Social Equity**
*Students provided individualized educational opportunities that are socially equitable, democratic, fair, positive, and supportive
*Myriad student supports and enrichment opportunities provided for all students to maximize potential, both academically and socially
*Staff committed to providing differentiation, standards-driven instruction, and student choice for all learners
*Positive environment is a top priority and is this is the cornerstone of our success
*Ongoing training and professional development provided to all community stakeholders
*Strong partnership with parents and community organizations to provide supports for all students inside and out of the classroom
*Abundance of extra-curricular opportunities for students to explore interests outside of the classroom

**Organizational Support**
*Leadership team meets regularly to continuously reflect and refine school improvement processes
*Commitment to providing a safe, caring, supportive, and engaging school environment that meets the diverse needs of adolescent learners
*All staff are encouraged to take an active role in all school improvement processes
*Data-driven decision processes guide all school improvement initiatives
*Collaboration and high quality professional development provided to all staff
*Staff provided ample opportunities to collaborate and share their expertise and demonstrate leadership at staff, department, committee, and team meetings
*Commitment to strong relationships with all school community stakeholders
Strong vertical and horizontal articulation with our feeder schools