

HICKORY MIDDLE SCHOOL



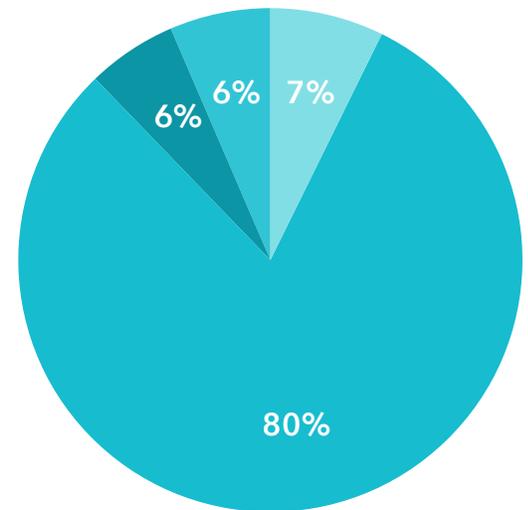
2017-2018 SCHOOL STATISTICS

Designated in 2015
Re-Designated 2018

Community Size - Suburban
School Enrollment - 1625
Grade Levels - 6, 7, 8
School Calendar -
Free and Reduced Lunch 9.8%
English Learners 1.2%
Students With Disabilities 15.1%

Hickory Middle School
Chesapeake City School District
1997 Hawk Blvd. Chesapeake City, VA
Tel (747) 421-0468
Principal - Dr. Debbie Hutchens
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2017-2018 School Demographics



- Hispanic 7.1%
- African American 5.6%
- Native American <1%
- Filipino 0%
- Other 0%
- White 78.4%
- Asian 0%
- Pacific Islander 0%
- Two or More 6.3%

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

We begin each school year with all the expectations of achievement, behavior, and involvement in our school that is required to make us who we are: A School to Watch.

- It takes all of the students, parents, administration, faculty, and staff to make our vision a reality.
- We are continually striving to make our environment non-threatening and supportive of students and colleagues.

Communication

- Hickory Middle School teachers communicate with parents through a program called Synergy - parents have access to grades, projects, rubrics, homework, and messages from teachers.
- The school also uses “Peachjar” which allows the school to post flyers about school activities, clubs, and important announcements.
- We continue to provide the students with planners, purchased by our PTSA.

Academic Program

- Content information is differentiated and broken down into multiple levels so that each student has the ability to reach success. Instruction is differentiated so that every type of learner can be successful. We determine these learning types by using a student survey which records the type of learner and ways to study for those various learners
- Every opportunity is used to make real world connections to provide a purpose for learning. We try to utilize critical thinking so that students will be able to establish their own points of view. At the same time, these students are able to support their point of view with back up information.

Student Recognition

- Students are recognized at the end of the school year for their academic excellence. Each team holds an annual awards banquet to recognize honor roll students. In order to recognize all students, teams have superlative awards. These awards include personality traits and good citizenship.
- Hickory Middle School holds grade level awards as well.
- We have such a large number of students to recognize that we have to hold an awards banquet at night for each grade level. Students are recognized for straight A’s, perfect attendance, and straight A’s throughout middle school.

Staff

- Our faculty and staff are exceptional.
- We are highly qualified.
- Tutoring is provided during lunch, before and after school. Many teachers sponsor after school clubs and activities to provide students with a well-rounded education. These include music, drama, environmental conservation, service to the community activities as well as sports. Tutoring is provided during lunch, before and after school.

Developmental Responsiveness

- HMS provides for growth intellectually, socially, and physically. We do this by having mentoring programs for students. The self-contained special education classes use eighth grade students to assist in their classrooms. The students help with assignments, activities, and lunch. These special students are included in team field trips, team t-shirts and team activities.
- Our guidance department holds support groups which include these students. The groups include social etiquette, being a new student to our school, anti-bullying, effective methods to deal with bullying and character development. Guidance counselors frequently visit classrooms and provide lessons which encourage students to be open about their middle school experiences.

- Structured classroom environments provide students with security and organization. Teachers circulate throughout the classroom to keep students on task and to monitor their comprehension of the subject matter. A variety of seating arrangements are observed in the classrooms at HMS. Appropriate lighting for activities is used to keep students focused. Music is utilized in some classrooms to calm and focus students. Classroom discipline includes the use of music, bells, and egg timers.
- Our curriculum encourages students to explore creativity, and to work up to their potential. Our standards-based learning is enhanced by a wide variety of instructional strategies. Cooperative learning is encouraged along with project based learning. Many hands-on activities are used to get students actively involved in their own education. Interdisciplinary activities help to support a connection to student learning.
- Technology is used in all areas of study to include physical education, technology classes, music and also in art classes.
- Our media specialists create lessons to help students utilize technology for research and for further exploration. Many of our classrooms are equipped with Interactive Smart Boards. They provide for a more visual education.
- The curriculum helps to meet the social needs of our students. Starting in the sixth grade, students are introduced to the concept of career choices. These choices are developed again in the seventh grade, and fine-tuned in the eighth grade. This helps students to focus on their strengths while improving their weaknesses.
- Families are encouraged to participate in our learning process. Our parents have many opportunities to volunteer in our building. Volunteer parents can be seen helping in the office, library, and in classrooms. Teachers keep parents informed through email, phone calls, and our gradebook program called Synergy. Parents use these venues to communicate with the school and the teachers.
- Teachers and teaching assistants work collaboratively with the guidance department, the school resource officer, security guards, and the nurse. Some students have conflicts and these support staff make themselves available to help those students with their struggles. Students are also taught to deal with conflict through lessons, novels, health education and counseling lessons.
- HMS students have the opportunity to express their views through Student Council Association, National Junior Honor Society and the Parent/Teacher/Student Association. Resource personnel are located close to classrooms making it easier to reach out. Students are encouraged to make informed choices and to work together to resolve conflicts.
- Our PTSA continues to develop a partnership with the families that are serviced by Hickory Middle School. Programs are provided on internet safety, violence prevention, and volunteer opportunities. Students along with their families are encouraged to participate in community collections. We have book drives, food drives, and clothing drives. Collections are given to the local communities in need. Our National Junior Honor Society gives back to the local area through programs like “Pennies for Premies,” March of Dimes, and canned food drive. These activities teach children to realize the bigger picture of the world around them.

- Healthy, well rounded, motivated, and kind students are what we foster at Hickory Middle School. Our athletic department offers a wide variety of sports including football, softball, track, field hockey, volleyball, and wrestling. Intramural sports activities and clubs are also offered for the students that do not qualify for the teams. Music students are given the opportunity to expand their talents by participating in jazz band, chamber orchestra, and choral ensemble. We have a large number of after school clubs to help round that education. These include our award-winning Robotics Club, TSA, Anchor Club, Drama Club, and Critter Club, Debate, and Forensics.

Social Equity

- All Hickory Middle School students have equal opportunities to excel and to find a chance to grow. Special Education students are encouraged to join any of the many clubs, sports, and activities that our school employs. There is a place for all of our students to expand their knowledge, social skills, and interactions. We are an inclusive in all of our activities.
- Our administrative team which consists of five administrators remains committed to ensuring that all students are supported and facilitated to maintain our high level of academic success.
- After school tutoring, study hall, and morning test preparation are in place to support students in their endeavors. We have ESTAT (Enhanced Student and Teacher Assistance Teams) in place to support struggling students regardless of ability levels. This is a three-tiered approach to helping students to become successful. These have interventions and accommodations on each level.
- Should these not make a difference, a Child Study Committee is convened to provide these students with testing or other possible accommodations or interventions to ensure success for all students. Parents are also included in this process.
- Our classrooms are diverse and include all types of special needs students. The regular classroom has any number of learning disabled, emotionally disturbed, autistic or physically disabled students. Their success in the regular classroom is dependent upon our highly qualified special education teachers and assistants. The continued communication between the regular classroom teachers and special education teachers is paramount to ensure success for these students. We have reading resource teachers, speech teachers, and language signers to accommodate the students in need. Please note that our special education population performed better in 2017 on the Virginia Standards of Learning Assessments.
- Teachers further this success by utilizing differentiated instruction. Their lessons include the kinesthetic approach, visual approach, written approach, as well as auditory approach. As we have many diverse types of learners, we vary our instruction to help students learn and to study.
- Our February Black History month includes recognizing significant black contributions to our world. We highlight these events during the morning announcements. Professional actors have been invited to depict events in history. This was followed up by a writing activity which allowed students to express something important to them. Skits are performed by English classes to highlight events that are important to recognize all of our African American students.
- While academics are very important, character development is an integral part of our daily life at HMS. We have instituted a “Character Counts” program which recognizes students each week

that portray these good characters. This recognition is for all students regardless of their academic standing.

Organizational Support

- We at Hickory Middle School are dedicated to seeing our mission come to fruition. All of us are invested in “Expanding Minds. Achieving Excellence.” We truly believe that in order to meet the academic and social needs of all of our students, we must remain diligent in reaching our goal.
- We stand united in this vision and that includes administration, faculty, staff, custodial staff, cafeteria staff, students, and parents. We advertise this mission in the classrooms, hallways, cafeteria, library, and in the student planners.
- We have a SAIP (Student Achievement Improvement Plan) which is continually modified to reflect the changing needs of our school. This plan is changed based on input provided by teachers, students, and parents. SAIP is instituted by printing it on our website, team t-shirts, and posters throughout the building. By updating the SAIP annually, we are able to continue our growth as a school.
- Dr. Hutchens is the primary resource in our school improvement plan. She incorporates various committees into the process. She participates in Summer Leadership programs, Principal’s Advisory Committee, and the PTSA. Constant communication is evident as she provides this information to her assistant administrators. This information is then provided to the team leaders and then disseminated to the teams. From there, students are kept informed of these changes.
- Training and new methods of instruction are provided continually throughout the school year. Teachers collaborate with their teams and with their content area grade level teachers. Teams meet three times a week and content meetings take place twice a week. These meetings are used to plan effective lessons and improve instruction. The content meetings are also used to create assessments and to analyze the data from those assessments.
- Our Technology Department gives semi-annually in-service training to assist teachers in using the latest software. This ensures that we are up to date on the latest methods used for teaching students using technology.
- The SOL data provides teachers information to determine our strengths and weaknesses. Teachers look for avenues to reach these students. By aligning and collaborating on our curriculum, all students are given the same information.
- Learning is a continual process at Hickory Middle School. Programs are introduced and revised as needed. These programs include ESTAT training, gifted endorsement, and special education courses to help teachers provide a top-notch education for all of the students.
- Administrators monitor classroom learning by making informal visits as well as formal ones. Feedback is provided to the teachers to help improve their teaching methods and classroom management. Gifted education specialists are available to assist our gifted teachers on a monthly basis. Special education teachers collaborate to better help serve this student population. A mentoring program is offered to assist new teachers, either to Hickory Middle or as first year teachers to help provide more confidence and information to these people.

- Our elementary students are provided a smoother transition into middle school with assemblies for rising sixth graders at their schools. Our eighth-grade students are given the same opportunity in preparation for the high school. The eighth-grade scheduling assembly is provided during the school day for the students and also in the evening for parents by the high school counselors.
- Hickory Middle School is a Professional Learning Community (PLC) and meets regularly to boost the unified school plan. We participate in the “Breaking Ranks” to enhance collaboration across the content areas. Our administrators meet on a weekly basis to address the expectations and needs of our school. Chesapeake Public Schools meets with all of their principals to encourage collaboration between administrators. A disciplinary data base has been implemented that is helpful among the middle schools.
- Diverse testing is given to students to monitor accountability of our HMS teachers. These assessments include common core assessments, benchmark testing, formal, and informal testing. Teachers are required to analyze data produced from these assessments to facilitate academic growth. If there is a weak link in the growth shown in the analysis, teachers re-teach or remediate those skills.
- Chesapeake Public Schools strives to increase achievement and development of all students. The school board meets twice monthly to have discussions about supporting school improvements. They frequently attend performances put on by HMS students. They are visible and recognized. This support is valued, respected, and needed to fulfill our vision. This sends the message to teachers, students, and parents that we are appreciated.
- The Virginia Standards of Learning are challenging and in order to meet these high state expectations, the universities partner with our school district to provide opportunities for practicum students and student teachers that are topnotch with the hopes of future employment with our city. Administrators observe these student teachers and record information which proves useful for future hires.
- Hickory Middle School includes families and community organizations about our needs and goals toward our ultimate vision for our students. This is based on our reputation throughout the community and beyond. Families are kept informed through our website, Hawk Headlines, PAS (Parent Alert System), and Synergy access. Our PTSA strives to meet our needs through various programs, fundraisers, and activities at HMS. Funds from their fundraisers afford us the opportunity to purchase new technology and items needed to enhance our daily instruction. They also provide for students who may not be able to attend field trips or activities due to a lack of funds.