School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence
- Our mission is for all students to make meaningful contributions to the world. By designing authentic and challenging learning experiences, teachers embed various instructional and assessment approaches including Project-Based Learning (PBL), Performance-Based Assessments (PBA), and Personalized Learning (PL) to support deeper learning.
- Technology is leveraged with a clear vision for how it can enhance teaching and learning. Students develop as knowledgeable critical thinkers, communicators, collaborators, creators, and contributors through an emphasis on making real-world connections with the world.

2018-2019 SCHOOL STATISTICS
Designated in 2010
Re-Designated in 2019
Community Size - Suburban
School Enrollment - 1,225
Grade Levels - 6-8
School Calendar - Traditional
Free & Reduced Lunch - 27%
English Learners - 19%
Students with Disabilities - 12%

2018-2019 School Demographics
- **African American** - 10%
- **Asian** - 15%
- **Caucasian** - 46%
- **Filipino** - 0%
- **Hispanic** - 24%
- **Native American** - 0%
- **Pacific Islander** - 0%
- **Other** - 0%
- **Two or More** - 5%

Loudoun County Public Schools
46240 Algonkian Parkway Sterling, VA 20165
Tel 571-434-3220
Principal - David Shaffer
https://www.lcps.org/rbms
Collaborative Learning Teams (CLTs) meet regularly to discuss topics related to curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Common planning time for departments allows for teachers to work collaboratively in a backward design approach to create common assessments for analysis of learning. All sixth-grade students are scheduled into heterogeneous sections for language arts, science, and social studies. Our focus is on equity and personalized learning for all classroom environments.

**Developmental Responsiveness**

Interdisciplinary teams (ITs) have common planning with students during a resource block. Teachers are provided with opportunities to reteach and reassess during resource. Additionally, counselors, deans, and other school personnel visit students during resource to discuss various advisory issues such as anti-bullying, character education, digital citizenship, course selection, etc. Weekly bulletins are sent home to parents so that they can better stay informed and be able to support student achievement. Our River Bend 101 early back program provides supports to rising 6th graders transitioning into middle school. RBM 101 gives students an opportunity to build relationships, understand the middle school model, prepare for block scheduling, etc. Peer ambassadors provide leadership in our school community by supporting various programs such as our Back to School Night and rising 6th grade visit.

**Social Equity**

All students are provided with an Individual Learning Device (Lenovo Laptop) which provides technology access for all students. We have a schoolwide focus on inclusive practices which ensures opportunities for all students regardless of disability, language barrier, etc. Students have opportunities to participate in over 25 after-school social, educational, and/or athletic extracurricular clubs free of charge. Additionally, student-led clubs are encouraged through the grade-level lunch blocks. Our gifted education program, Spectrum, is based on student ability as well as achievement. Gifted and talented students gain the ability to develop complexity and depth and acquire methods for research and independent study.

**Organizational Support**

We utilize a Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) framework for creating a common vision of behavioral expectations through consistent language and practices among staff and students. River Bend Middle School uses tiered approaches to address the needs of all members of our school community. Monthly faculty meetings enable the entire staff to celebrate the successes of individuals (e.g., our "Pay It Forward" 5 Star Award teacher recognition) and to participate in various differentiated professional development opportunities. The School Improvement Plan (SIP) at River Bend Middle School is a continuous process of improvement developed by a team of stakeholders who assess identified indicators, creates and
revises specific objectives, and monitors progress throughout the entire year.
- River Bend works to include area businesses to better support our students, improve our campus, and involve area experts to bring new and different perspectives as well as expand the school community.