

## Red Hills Middle School



### 2016-17 School Statistics

(Source: District Student URTEX Data)

Community: Rural  
 Enrollment: 513  
 Grade Levels: Grade 6, 7 & 8  
 School Schedule: A/B 5x5 Modified

#### Student Demographics

3% Hispanic  
 93% White  
 .7% African American  
 2% Native American  
 .7% Asian  
 .5% Pacific Islander

47.3% Free/Reduced Lunch  
 1.2% English Learners

#### Percent Proficient on Utah Core Testing [SAGE]

	Language Arts	Mathematics	Science
2016	39	49	32
2015	34	38	40
2014	33	39	35

### Designated in 2017

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## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

### Community Characteristics

Red Hills Middle School is located in Richfield a rural community in South-central Utah. The local community has a strong commitment to family values. Education is valued and supported by parents and other stakeholders. Although the community is rural, the school is not immune from urban problems, with the most challenging being intergenerational poverty.

### Academic Excellence

- Rigorous academic standards direct the educational programs at Red Hills Middle School (RHMS) and guide decisions regarding teaching and learning. Instruction for students is both rigorous and relevant to essential academic standards. Students have multiple opportunities to demonstrate content mastery in a variety of ways.
- Learning standards, objectives and learning tasks are communicated in “student friendly” language so students know what they are learning and why. A school-wide learning management system (Canvas) is used to ensure students and parents have access to current student performance indicators, academic expectations, and learning standards.

- Teaching teams work together to provide cross-disciplinary experiences to deepen students' understanding of essential core concepts. Teachers plan and implement thematic instruction to connect learning across disciplines.
- RHMS has a robust technology program that allows students to have access to technology devices in multiple classes. The curriculum drives the use of technology and in many classes student work is completed and submitted on a device rather than by traditional means. Technology use offers the students opportunities to engage in interactive lessons, simulations, and presentations, and makes research tools immediately available.

## **Developmental Responsiveness**

- Technology plays an essential role in creative learning. Students have created web pages, info graphics, apps, and audio and video presentations. The use of technology has been a medium for creative design and expression that helps students articulate themselves in ways they never have been able to before.
- Students have the opportunity to participate in honors tracks and enrichment activities. These include; Honors Math, Science and Engineering Electives, Science Fair, Math Counts, Medieval Festival, Book Club, and Yearbook staff and many others. These activities are designed to enhance the students' education and give them real-life experiences outside the classroom.
- Leadership experiences are available for students at RHMS. They include student council, National Junior Honor Society, Governing Youth Council, and band council. Student groups take an active role in planning and carrying out activities at the school. The focus of student groups is to create an atmosphere where all students feel included while strengthening school spirit.
- Service learning is ongoing. Students have multiple opportunities to participate in service projects and activities. All planned activities are focused on improving the greater community as a whole.
- RHMS hosts new student orientation and a back-to-school open house before school begins. Parents are encouraged to come to the school, meet their child's teachers and become familiar with the campus. Family support services are offered during that time. Assistance is available to help families' complete forms, sign up for parent notifications, request language services, receive immunizations and request counseling services.

## **Social Equity**

- All students at RHMS have the opportunity to participate in heterogeneous classes. Honors track classes and intervention opportunities are open to students from all backgrounds. Academic interventions are available for all students and include after-school tutoring, in-class differentiation, peer tutors, and homework support.
- RHMS has a robust technology program that allows students to have access to devices in multiple classes. These opportunities are not limited to honors track classes or special needs classes, but access is provided to all students.
- Students with disabilities are included in regular education classrooms. Special educators and regular classroom teachers co-teach in core classes. RHMS also houses students with multiple disabilities. Students served by this program take part in regular education classes with assistance. All students have access to interest-based elective courses and activities.
- Students are well known to the staff. The teachers know each student by name and understand each student's learning style. All students have a mentor teacher that serves as an advocate to help them be successful.

## **Organizational Support**

- Teacher teams and content-level professional learning communities are key to success at RHMS. Teachers share data and student concerns to ensure all students are learning. Teachers share best practices and work collaboratively to improve the teaching process.
- The staff at RHMS works in conjunction with the feeder elementary school and the high school the students will transition to after leaving RHMS. The students participate in orientation at the high school, visit the campus and meet with the high school counselors to prepare for their upcoming freshman year. The counselor and principal from RHMS meet with the incoming students to help them make the transition from elementary to middle school.

- The school staff regularly analyzes student achievement data to inform instruction. The faculty holds themselves accountable for students' success and is constantly looking at ways to improve student-learning outcomes.
- School administration has worked to recruit and retain high quality teachers. Qualified teachers are hired based upon their content knowledge and their willingness to mentor young adolescents.
- RHMS has an active, involved school community council. The council reviews programs, approves budgets for the School Trust Land monies and works as a governing body for school improvement efforts.