

EAGLE RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL



2018-2019 SCHOOL STATISTICS

Designated in 2007

Re-Designated in 2019

Community Size - Suburban

School Enrollment - 1,222

Grade Levels - 6, 7, 8

School Calendar - Traditional

Free & Reduced Lunch - 6%

English Learners - 6%

Students with Disabilities - 9%

Loudoun County Public Schools
42901 Waxpool Rd., Ashburn, VA 20148
Tel (571)252-2140
Principal - Scott Phillips
www.lcps.org/erms

2018-2019 School Demographics

- **African American - 5%**
- **Asian - 32%**
- **Caucasian - 51%**
- **Filipino - 0%**
- **Hispanic - 7%**
- **Native American - 0%**
- **Pacific Islander - 0%**
- **Other - 0%**
- **Two or More - 6%**

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

*Student schedules at Eagle Ridge are created with the intent of placing them with teams of teachers (ITs) to aid in student academic and social-emotional development, as well as to increase communication for the purpose of monitoring and supporting student growth.

* Monthly PD sessions are conducted with CLTs and ITs, and are guided by the school's instructional facilitator of technology as well as outside software vendors and county instructional facilitators to help with new PL tools and teaching strategies. The goal of these sessions is to differentiate instruction for teachers based on subject area, grade level, and student needs.

* In the 2017-2018 school year, ERMS introduced personalized learning (PL). PL software tools include MAP testing (reading/math), ALEKS (math), Discovery Education (science/history), Achieve 3000 (reading/science/history), and Language Live (reading for SPED). Teachers used the data results from these software tools to identify areas of strength and need in students, essential for personalized learning.

* ERMS provided Common Sense Media Digital Citizenship instruction across all grade levels to develop socially and academically responsible technology use. Instructors were certified in the content area by Common Sense Media and the instruction materials are nationally recognized and approved. This program is essential to our students due to the daily use of technology enhanced instruction.

* To provide clear and consistent communication in regard to academic responsibilities, parents have access to student grade books through ParentVue, and students have access to their grades via StudentVue. In addition, all teachers are required to post class assignments and homework through Google calendar/Google classroom. Teachers provide guided instruction on use of this technology, to include LCPS Go, an app that provides students access to all school approved software. Only one login is required to access all academic capabilities within the LCPS Go app.

* ERMS recognizes the need for more intensive tier interventions for struggling students. ERMS administrators and teachers identified students in need of math and reading support. Schedules are created to provide these students with daily math and/or reading instruction throughout the school year, and across all grade levels to provide continual support. Another tiered intervention available at ERMS is Math Resource (conducted by a certified math teacher during resource blocks); students can request math support as needed or be referred by teachers. Eagle Ridge is cultivating highly qualified instructors in intensive reading interventions through certifications in Orton-Gillingham methods to aid all students, especially those with dyslexia.

* Eagle Ridge MS participates in articulation with schools in our cluster (elementary, middle and high schools). Teachers within the middle-school triangulation (Eagle Ridge, Stone Hill, and Brambleton Middle Schools) share time within subject areas to support each other in planning and instructional strategies.

Developmental Responsiveness

* In addition to designing cross-curricular units, a vital function of the interdisciplinary team is to provide the opportunity for teachers to meet to discuss common student needs which include academic as well as social and emotional needs to help to develop the whole child. Team members dedicate a portion of their planning time to share any concerns they may have about a particular student, and they discuss and create short-term and long-term interventions for addressing the concern. Over the course of the last few years, Eagle Ridge developed tighter implementation of interdisciplinary teams by involving administrative representation on each team.

* Eagle Ridge promotes personalized learning and the PTA supports these efforts through funds for technology, etc. In the last year, the PTA offered grants to teachers which have been used to purchase flexible seating in some of the classrooms.

* Eagle Ridge now has on staff four guidance counselors (one of these counselors focuses specifically on students with special needs) who actively communicate with deans and secretaries to keep them in the loop. Anti-bullying is a continued focus for the guidance department; students are able to anonymously report bullying on the school website. Counseling has expanded to include small group where restorative practices/groups are implemented as needed. In addition, students are "followed" by the same counselor and dean throughout their middle school experience to provide them some consistency and stability throughout their middle school

experience, building a strong relationship for academic and social/emotional success.

* Our Mental Health Team consists of a full-time social worker and psychologist. They work with students regularly through the check-in and check-out system. We also have a Crisis Team that meets monthly. In 2018-19, we have implemented a return to learn program. Students with mental health needs or physical conditions that keep them out of school for an extended time participate in a return to learn plan in order to ease their transition. Our social worker, school psychologist, administrator and counselor meet with the student and their parents before coming back to the school setting to create an action plan for a successful re-entrance to the school setting.

* The PBIS Committee remains a very active part of our school community. One of its primary activities over the course of 2017-18 was to develop the weekly Advisory period which we called "Fly Time". It was structured so that each staff member has a small group of students with a focus on social/emotional learning. The groups consist of students in one grade level that are mixed and balanced by gender and social/emotional need. We have recently purchased and started using school-wide software that provides teachers with lesson plans differentiated by grade level, based on growth mindset monthly themes, videos, classroom enrichment, etc.

* We believe in the importance of physical health and its contribution to the overall well being of our students, socially and emotionally. The Physical Education Department contributes to the school through Fit for 5. Fit for 5 is a Loudoun County Public Schools fitness initiative that focuses on fitness for life through five different fitness strategies. This program includes the Eagle Mile, the pacer star recognition program, and classroom movement training for teachers. Finally, the PE department hosts a number of staff and student tournaments throughout the school year to promote physical fitness while building student/staff relationships.

* Finally, Eagle Ridge has a wide variety of extracurricular activities available to students such as competitive academic teams, competitive sports teams, drama productions/club, and special interest clubs. All of these activities promote the importance of balance in our students lives beyond academic pursuits. We encourage students continually to discover their talents and skills and make contributions to the world around them.

Social Equity

* To the fullest extent possible, all students, including English learners, students with disabilities, gifted and honors students, participate in heterogeneous classes with high academic and behavioral expectations.

* To the fullest extent possible, the faculty welcomes and encourages the active participation of all its families and makes sure that its families are an integral part of the school. The 6th grade hosts a historical "Live Wax Museum" each year, the 7th grade history classes host an annual Immigration Feast inviting parents and family members to the school, and the 8th grade participates in a "Day of Service" by going out into the community and helping in various need areas.

* Eagle Ridge has a Back to School Bash which involves the entire school community. We also host a Back to School social meeting for Special Education parents and case managers in the fall and spring.

* In the spring, we host Eagle Excellence Night. Parents and students are welcomed to the school and are encouraged to walk around the school and view recent student work from all grade levels, including art work and music programs.

* The Eagle Ridge Parent Liaison provides support to families in need. Our principal, Mr. Phillips, hosts Parent Coffees at The Blend & Rubino's - we use community businesses now to meet our families.

* The SCA (Student Council Advisory) gives students a voice in school concerns.

Organizational Support

* The House system is vital to the support and structure of each grade level. Each grade level is a House (A - 8th grade, B - 7th grade, C - 6th grade) comprised of grade level teachers, a counselor, a secretary and led by a dean. Great care is put into the master schedule. As ERMS has transitioned to a smaller school, scheduling students into teams creates a cohesive group based on core subjects. Each collaborative learning team and instructional team has dedicated weekly planning time. This allows teachers to work collaboratively across the grade level and to meet and discuss student needs.

* The Faculty Advisory Council, or FAC, is a committee that gives voice to staff concerns and feedback for any implementation and changes. It is run by a current teacher in the school, and each subject area has a teacher representative. School concerns and needs are discussed and taken up with the administrative staff for final resolution. Committee notes are then disseminated to the whole staff via email.

* The ERMS PTA holds monthly meetings where staff and community members can attend, hosts a Back to School Bash where students can pick up their schedules and meet their teachers, hosts community fundraisers, and offers grants for staff and students.

* Community partnerships with businesses such as support from Piedmont Environmental Council and Loudoun Stormwater Management for landscape improvements, environmental benefit, and student involvement.

* School-based community outreach programs designed to welcome new students. Bridge to the Ridge program is a week-long orientation for rising 6th graders where they can get a head start on adjusting to middle school routines. Parent's Guide to Surviving Middle School, and orientation for new students to the area & school.

* Continual communication with parents through Connect Ed emails, bi-weekly grade level newsletters from the deans, daily announcements posted on the school website, use of ParentVue from any personal device.