



Central Middle School

*Insert photo
of school here.*

Central Middle School • Evergreen Park School District 124
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2015-16 School Statistics

Community/Population: 1,774

Enrollment: 544

Grade Levels: 6-8

School Schedule: Bell/Block

Student Demographics

- 21% Hispanic
- 46% White
- 30% African American
- .1% Native American
- .5% Asian
- 0% Pacific Islander
- 2.4% Other
- 14% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 0.9% English Learners

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- The vision at Central Middle School embraces the belief that all students can learn and succeed.
- The mission of our school district is to inspire all children to achieve their full potential through comprehensive instruction, innovation, and programs that develop intellectual and personal growth.
- Our curriculum is continually evolving and undergoing evaluation in order to provide the most current resources available for our students to grow through collaboration between classroom teachers and district Math and Reading coaches. We have created a school compact to serve as a clear reminder of the parents', teachers', and students' responsibility in the education of our children.
- Teachers meet frequently in teams, grade levels and in departments, to evaluate student data from Northwest Evaluation Association Measures of Academic Progress (NWEA MAP) and AIMS Web testing. Each student's data is individually assessed to find areas of strength and need. Students are taught how to assess themselves and reflect on their learning through student-teacher conferences and

incorporating teacher and peer input. An example of this is how teachers use the MAP Student Goal Setting Sheet to guide students in setting their own personal goals. This self-assessment allows students to compare their learning against the objectives and expectations.

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- Homework Haven, which is our before and after school homework program, is open to all students on an as-needed basis four days per week. Teachers are present and technology is available for students to complete their work successfully. After a one-year pilot, all students now have one-to-one technology in the form of Chromebooks which provide another avenue for students to access individualized instruction and help. Language arts, literature and math classes offer co-teaching sections as well as essentials classes to address individual student needs.

Developmental Responsiveness

- Central Middle School provides the students with Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies (PBIS) to promote a positive learning environment for all. All students at Central have a relationship with at least one trusted adult who is willing to advocate for them throughout their time in middle school.
- The school provides many activities to involve the families of our students. Technology Night, Back to School Night, fifth grade orientation, and parent-teacher conferences are all effective ways to connect with our larger Central families. The district provides parent education and involvement by offering classes for parents to help their middle school child to be successful such as gifted learning, behavioral expectations, and internet safety.
- Classrooms at Central Middle School are effectively run because of the PBIS model used and the “three R’s” which are Be Ready, Be Respectful and Be Responsible. The teachers embed study and organizational skills into their daily lessons, however, students with individual needs work one on one with a social worker, case manager or specialist to address their individual needs.
- To create an environment of student ownership, students have the ability to participate in our Student Leadership Council where they are able to be a part of school-related decisions. Students are also surveyed regarding their opinions and reflections on school activities. Over the last three years, the role of the student has evolved to be an active participant in parent-teacher conferences as we work toward our goal of student-led conferences. In addition, the students are given the opportunity to self-monitor their progress through PowerSchool and communicate with their teachers through district emails and in person.
- The staff of Central has created an environment which encourages open communication between home and school. A school newsletter is sent home to communicate news and updates monthly. Teachers utilize various methods of communication such as emails, phone calls, and good news notes to keep families informed of student progress at school. Parent members are included on the PBIS universal team. The SADD club sponsors family events such as Family Fun Fall Fest. The Panther Pride Booster Club also provides a variety of parent-student-school involved activities. With the restructuring of the PTA as a booster club and the addition of sixth grade, we have observed an increase in parent volunteers. We are working to continue the trend of parent involvement.
- Learning continues beyond the classroom at Central. Citizenship is taught through groups such as FOR, SADD, National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), and school-wide activities through PBIS. The

students of Central Middle School take on projects that develop their social awareness skills through core curriculum such as St. Jude Math-a-thon, embedded SEL lessons, and service projects such as building gingerbread houses for the area nursing home, giving food to the area food pantry, and Fighting for Friends - a student-created group to assist peers in need during a time of crisis. Also the students participate in various community outreach programs such as the Walk for Hope, Veterans Day breakfast and concert, and St. Baldrick's fundraisers.

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Social Equity

- It is a goal of Central Middle School to provide every student with the skills and resources they need to be a successful Twenty-First Century learner and a responsible citizen in his or her own community. Each teacher at Central Middle School is committed to helping every student. In order to achieve this goal, a variety of programs, including Boost Your Grades, Check-In Check-Out, before and after school Homework Haven, and Reading and Math Masters are available. Reading intervention classes are also offered to students for accelerated short term interventions. With the addition of sixth grade to the building, a new master schedule was developed to provide both common department and grade level daily planning time. This new schedule allows for fluid movement between our essentials and co-taught special services classes providing the least restrictive environment to the students.
- As a PBIS school we provide daily reminders on how to “Be Ready, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible” in our school and community. The behavior matrix is available on the website, posted in every classroom and is also a part of the handbook which parents receive at the beginning of the year. There is parent representation on both the PBIS and handbook review committee. PBIS data is reviewed at bi-weekly meetings and shared with staff. Current data shows less than five percent of our students have received two or more referrals. At mid-term and the end of the quarter, students are rewarded for having As, Bs, and Cs
- After piloting 1:1 technology last year, the entire building is now 1:1 using Chromebooks. The district technology coach continues to provide monthly professional development and is available at all times. In addition a student tech crew has been formed and members of this crew are part of each grade level and team throughout the building to assist both teachers and students
- Student recognition includes more than sports and academics. Star Student and the Heart of Central awards are examples of awards given for character.

Organizational Support

- Central Middle School maintains high standards and consistently works on reflecting on its successes and needs to ensure that we continue to improve over time. All staff members share in the vision of the school and work diligently to ensure that this vision becomes a reality. This can be seen by the variety of committee work done including PBIS Tier committees, Building Leadership Team, and curriculum committees. Strong, effective communication between all staff members, along with rigorous collaboration, allows the vision of the school to be a cornerstone of day to day activities.
- The use of professional development time in our Professional Learning Communities (PLC) allows for this collaboration to happen, as well as the needed reflection to occur. Various new initiatives help

improve the curriculum and teaching throughout the building to help strengthen the vision of the school. Some of these initiatives are district wide and include improving our close reading and writing skills, and helping students prepare better for standardized testing. Numerous staff have completed Masters-level degrees and hold various endorsements.

- Central Middle School works with the community in many ways. We work with Evergreen Park Community High School to vertically align the curriculum to provide students with the skills needed to be successful in high school. Students are able to earn high school credit for Algebra I and Spanish I. We annually accept many students from Trinity College, St. Xavier University, and Illinois State University to participate in observations and student teaching experiences.

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- An integral component in ensuring our high levels of success is parent involvement. Powerschool allows parents to actively be a part of their student's academic growth. Student- led parent-teacher conferences are held three times a year to discuss student strengths and weaknesses.
- The final piece of the school's organization to help its improvement is analyzing the data we collect. This enables staff and students to be in a state of continual evaluation and improvement. Whether it is academic or behavioral, data is looked at as a tool to help drive instruction on a daily basis. A shared responsibility in the leadership, reflection, and evaluation make Central Middle School a strong institution of learning.