



SCHOOLS TO WATCH

VISITOR'S GUIDE



Murphy Middle School



Re-Designated in 2017

Murphy Middle School

- Plano ISD, Collin County
- Matthew Conrad, Principal
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School Web site:

<http://k12.pisd.edu/murphy-middle-school>

2015-16 School Statistics

(Sources: 2015-2016 Texas School Report Card)

Community: Suburban District with 72 Campuses
Enrollment: 1,219
Grade Levels: 07, 08, 09
School Schedule: August - June

Student Demographics

- 8 % African American
- 10.8 % Hispanic
- 49 % White
- 0.3 % American Indian
- 28 % Asian
- 3.9 % Two or More Races

- 9.4 % Economically Disadvantaged
- 2.5 % English Language Learners
- 7.9% Special Education

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- T-TESS goal grouping for teachers
- Emphasis on professional development for teachers – based on campus needs and feedback
- Homework Hot Spot to assist students with homework – peer tutors from NHS at neighboring high school
- Targeted tutorial invitations for students needing additional intervention
- Robust NEHS and NJHS program
- Common academic planning periods for grades 7 & 8
- New teacher mentor program
- Grade level teams able to enact student intervention
- Wide variety of special education classes including a centralized behavior skills classroom, and centralized skills classroom, applied level classes, & inclusion
- Structured RTI process
- District-Wide curriculum utilizing backwards design
- PACE program for gifted students offered through social studies – over 320 students involved
- UIL Academic Clubs compete in competitions

Developmental Responsiveness

- Grit curriculum for all students focused on teaching life skills
- Common teaming period for 6th grade teachers – 3 separate teams
- Award winning environmental club
- Emphasis on social/emotional learning for students and teachers
- AVID program for 7th and 8th grade students
- 7.5 hours of required teacher professional development focused on needs of our campus
- Social media safety presentation for students and parents every other year
- Maker Spaces available for students in library
- Career Day for all 8th graders and a large number of 6th and 7th graders
- Counselors follow students for 3 years

Social Equity

- Variety of tutorial options including Homework Hot Spot, morning and afternoon tutorial sessions offered by each teacher, and the ability to attend any teacher's tutorial session
- Staff cultural responsiveness training school-wide
- Multicultural committee of teachers, parents, and administrators – multicultural week included presentations by students and a Multicultural Family Night event attended by over 150 parents & students
- Social Skills classes for select students
- Wide variety of clubs created by students
- Student awards program to recognize at least 3 students grade level team each grading period
- Student representatives on School Based Improvement Committee

Organizational Support

- Newly created and clearly articulated mission statement and belief statements – this work was done over the course of a full school year and included input from the entire staff
- Peer Observations – goal is for all core area teachers complete 2 observations per year
- Grade level teaming for celebrating student success, implementing intervention, and professional learning
- Staff led professional development when possible
- Administrative participation in at least 2 job fairs per year as well as recruiting trips at college campuses
- High level of collaboration with PTA with focus on transition, student & parent education opportunities, teacher grants for professional development, and social events for students
- Campus leadership team meets regularly and is involved in decision making processes