



NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOLS TO WATCH

VISITOR'S GUIDE

Newton-Conover STEM Middle School



Designated in 2017

Newton-Conover STEM Middle School • Newton-Conover City Schools • Conover • Dr. Rosanna Whisnant, Principal
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2016 School Statistics

(Sources: 2015 AYP Report)

Community: Suburban Public School
Enrollment: 650
Grade Levels: 6-8

Student Demographics

- 27% Hispanic
- 49% White
- 13% African American
- 7% Multi-Racial
- 62% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 8% English Learners

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Develop use common lesson plans and Project Based Learning units
- What I Need (WIN) time daily used for remediation, enrichment, Genius Hour, and career development
- Develop and use common assessments to dissect data
- Student goal-setting is a common school-wide practice
- EOG Boot camp week with daily goals and rewards by grade-levels
- Promoting Recognition for Individual Dedication to Excellence (PRIDE) Cards are given out bi-yearly to celebrate varying levels of success
- Collaborative team meetings for: vertical teams, grade-level teams, STEM development, and technology, Cares teams
- Follows a multi-age, interdisciplinary team structure

Developmental Responsiveness

- Team building activities monthly in social studies classrooms
- All students participate in clubs on Wednesday
- Brain breaks and whole-brain teaching strategies are a common school-wide practice in classrooms
- Student self-reflection is a common school-wide practice
- Students explore careers and assess strengths during Genius Hour

Social Equity

- Inclusive classroom “Communities” that are heterogeneously mixed
- Students participate in Genius Hour the 1st semester during WIN time
- Follows inclusion model in ELA and math classrooms
- PBIS rewards daily, quarterly major rewards, 10-day uniform free reward, mini rewards every 3.5 weeks, teach and student of the month
- TregoEd model for making strategic, critical, and personnel decisions as a school
- Mentor program for repeat student discipline offenders

Organizational Support

- Beginning Teacher mentor program for the first three years
- Strong Community partnerships: Catawba Valley Community College, Lenoir Rhyne University, GKN, Farm Bureau, Catawba Chamber of Commerce, City of Conover, Lee Industries
- Active parent support
- Solid Continuous Improvement model in place to make yearly improvements
- Systematic School Support (S3) data analyzed from all stakeholders to address needs and action steps
- STEM Connection Nights quarterly to promote career development

- STEM Family FUN night for rising 6th grade families