



NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOLS TO WATCH

VISITOR'S GUIDE

Sherwood Githens Middle School



Designated in 2016

Sherwood Githens Middle School • Durham Public Schools
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2015 School Statistics

Community: Large Urban Traditional School
Enrollment: 920
Grade Levels: 6-8

Student Demographics

- 28% Hispanic
- 20% White
- 46% African American
- 3% Asian
- 3% Multi-Racial

- 65% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 17% English Learners
- 20% Academically/Intellectually Gifted

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Teachers introduce new lessons with either the gradual release of the “I do, We do, You do” model or the 5E model (Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, Extend) and provide exemplars for students to uphold.
- Utilizes the Understand by Design framework for lesson planning
- Enrichment opportunities are extended to accelerate student learning. Examples include Math Counts, Science Olympiad, Chess Club, Battle of the Books, Envirothon, Art Showcase, Honors Strings, Evening of Entertainment, Honors Chorus, All County Band, Model United Nations, and other learning experiences
- Comprehensive, differentiated professional development plan based on teacher needs and feedback. Follows a multi-age, interdisciplinary team structure

Developmental Responsiveness

- In order to meet students' social and behavioral needs the PBIS team maintains a list of students who would benefit from mentoring or guidance from staff members. This program is called "Each One, Reach One."
- Several teachers on each grade level are Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) trained, which provides students with instruction that meets their unique needs.
- Students are consistently engaged in instructional activities that meet their individual learning style.

Social Equity

- A PBIS model is maintained and the entire staff follows the same basic paradigm to create a consistent, positive environment.
- Partner with local Universities to provide in-school support for acceleration and remediation.
- Students are also given many opportunities for field work based on relationships with Biogen and Blue Cross Blue Shield NC. Utilize Montessori community building structures with parent groups.
- Teachers utilize the diverse student population and multi-cultural materials to encourage an environment where students are comfortable and willing to share their heritage.

Organizational Support

- Beyond the School Improvement Team, parents participate and are given voice in the decision-making process of the school through the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and planning committees for multiple school-wide events such as Multi-cultural Heritage Night, Science Night, and school showcase tours.
- Strong Community partnerships: Walmart, Home Depot, Keep Durham Beautiful, Summit Church, Duke University, Chapel Hill Bible Church, Resurrection Methodist Church, North Carolina Central University, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Biogen, Piedmont Wildlife, and Boys on Track, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- Teachers participate in book studies yearly in order to impact student learning and stay abreast of current research.
- Solid Continuous Improvement model in place to make yearly improvements

