



NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOLS TO WATCH MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE

Carmel Middle School



Designated in 2005; Redesignated 2008

Carmel Middle School • Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools •
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2009-10 School Statistics

(Source: 2009 NC School Report Card)

Community: Suburban Fringe of a large city
Enrollment: 1003
Grade Levels: 6-8
School Schedule: Traditional

Student Demographics

60% White
19% African American
14% Hispanic
4% Asian

28% Free/Reduced Lunch
10% English Learners

2007 AYP: High Growth, School of Distinction
Met 25 of 29 performance targets

2008 AYP: High Growth, School of Progress
Met 27 of 29 performance targets

2009 AYP: High Growth, School of Distinction
Met 33 of 33 performance targets

(Visit <http://www.ncreportcards.org> to view this school's data for prior years.)

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Carmel Middle School is one of over thirty middle schools in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System. While serving a diverse population from across the urban Charlotte area, Carmel meets the needs of each student in a progressive, well-organized academic arena that thrives on success for all. This success is a result of the outstanding support of the faculty, staff, parents and community that are all part of the Carmel family.

Academic Excellence

- All students regardless of academic level (scholar, accelerated, ESL, EC, etc.) are expected to achieve at their highest level
- Wide variety of teaching strategies and techniques are used to meet the needs of the individual students
- Teachers show excitement for what they teach

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Academic Excellence *(continued)*

- Emphasis is on achievement and higher test scores for everyone
- Eighty minute blocks provide time for a variety of instructional activities
- Technology is commonplace in all subjects
- Integration of curriculum is utilized and expected to take place

Developmental Responsiveness

- School has a comfortable, inviting, friendly atmosphere although the building was built 32 year ago as a junior high
- A wide variety of student services and classes are available through the magnet classes that are open to all students and through the "9th Block" enrichment program
- Classes in life skills, character education, current events, as well as Algebra I and geometry are examples of classes offered to all students
- Principals' Advisory Council and the Student Council provide open, non- threatening opportunities for students to present concerns and solutions to problems within the school as well as to provide community services
- Community partnerships with businesses, the Mint Museum, the YMCA, The Charlotte Observer and the local FOX TV channel are ongoing
- Students have access to a wide variety of co-curricular activities during the school day (9th Block) and before and after school

Social Equity

- Dual grading of student work (e.g.: same item evaluated by language arts teacher, science teacher or peers)
- Wide use in all classes and school of technology, learning styles and teaching methods to meet the diverse needs of students
- Inclusion for EC students
- All students have opportunity to participate in clubs, teams and activities
- Student of day is recognized for outstanding citizenship
- Parent and family involvement is strong with activities of PTA and School Leadership Team and volunteers that serve in the school

Organizational Support

- While the principal has a strong leadership style, other key administrators are delegated key roles and responsibilities
- Teachers and administrators are visible throughout the school monitoring class changes, lunches, special release times, etc.
- Parents are invited and expected to participate in school planning, school activities and school improvement
- Organizational procedures are in place-faculty, staff, students and parents know what to do and what must be done to maintain a safe, caring, learning environment