



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

### Chowan Middle School



#### Designated in 2010

Chowan Middle School • Edenton-Chowan Public Schools  
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### 2009-10 School Statistics

(Source: 2009 NC School Report Card.)

Community: Rural  
Enrollment: 566  
Grade Levels: 6-8  
School Schedule: Traditional

#### Student Demographics

53% White  
47% African American

53% Free/Reduced Lunch

2007 AYP: Expected Growth, School of Progress  
Met 19 of 21 performance targets

2008 AYP: High Growth, School of Progress  
Met 14 of 21 performance targets

2009 AYP: High Growth, School of Progress  
Met 21 of 21 performance targets

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

### School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Chowan Middle School is located in northeast North Carolina near the coast. Chowan Middle School is located in the rural community of Tyner, North Carolina. There is a great deal of "Bulldog" pride which is seen on bulletin boards, in display cases, and heard on Chowan Chat, their morning news program. The administration of Chowan Middle School has created a safe and positive learning environment. They have teachers that travel over 50 miles to school because they LOVE teaching at Chowan Middle. Open and honest communication between the administration, teachers, staff, students, parents, and the community is what makes Chowan Middle School an exemplary school.

#### Academic Excellence

- All students are expected to meet high standards through the use of strategies developed from EVAAS data.
- High expectations are evident for high quality work and continued improvement.
- Sixth grade teams are composed of two teachers to ease transition from 5th grade. Seventh and eighth grade teams have four teacher teams.
- Core Zero- The rotation of the first period of the day which includes: Team Building Skills, Clubs, Character Education, Intramurals, and Drop Everything and Read.

(Continued)

### **Academic Excellence** *(continued)*

- A large variety of various instructional strategies were observed: cooperative learning, direct instruction, technology-based instruction, and hands-on learning.
- Life coaches are assigned to at risk students, who are followed from 6th grade to 12th grade.

### **Developmental Responsiveness**

- The principal creates a personalized environment by sending home an email “Bulldog Bites” on a weekly basis.
- Teams meet on a daily basis to discuss curriculum, team issues, and learning teams.
- Curiosity, creativity, and the development of social skills are fostered by the weekly schedule of the first period, weekly rotation.
- Students have an opportunity to be heard through an active student council and the student/principal advisory committee.

### **Social Equity**

- To the fullest extent possible, students with disabilities, gifted, and honors students participate in heterogeneous classes using data to schedule AIG, Corrective Reading Groups and After School Remediation
- The school reward system, Positive Behavior System, is designed to promote values, civility, service, citizenship, and diversity.
- Student are provided the opportunity to use many and varied approaches to achieve mastery of standards in regular classrooms, the academy, student development center, and small group alternatives.
- The entire school community knows and addresses each student by name; teachers are assigned an at-risk student to track throughout the year as a Bulldog Buddy.

### **Organizational Support**

- A shared vision of what a high performing school is and does is evident and apparent through collective data with EVAAS.
- The principal has the responsibility and authority to hold the school improvement enterprise together and does so with a weekly newsletter to parents via email; staff development opportunities throughout the year; daily observations; walk-throughs; and encourages teachers to plan horizontally and vertically.
- The entire faculty and staff exhibit a positive attitude toward peers and students alike.
- The school includes families and community members in the school’s success by providing a free spaghetti dinner each semester during their PTA meeting and hold student led conferences at the conclusion of each dinner.