



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

### Carmel Middle School



#### Designated in 2005; Redesignated 2008

Carmel Middle School • Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools •  
Mecklenburg County • North Carolina • Nancy Hicks,  
Principal • 5001 Camilla Drive, Charlotte, NC 28226 •  
Phone (980) 343-6705 • E-mail [nancy.hicks@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:nancy.hicks@cms.k12.nc.us)  
• <http://www.cms.k12.nc.us/allschools/carmel/>

### 2007-08 School Statistics

(Source: 2007 NC School Report Card)

Community: Suburban Fringe of a large city  
Enrollment: 960  
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

2005 AYP: High Growth, School of Distinction  
Met 27 of 33 performance targets

2006 AYP: School of Distinction  
Met 31 of 33 performance targets

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

(Visit <http://www.ncschoolreportcards.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

## **North Carolina Schools to Watch** **Carmel Middle School**

### **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