



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

Jefferson Middle School



Designated in 2007, Re-Designated in 2010

Thomas Jefferson Middle School • Winston-Salem/
Forsyth County Schools • Forsyth County • North Carolina
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2009-10 School Statistics

(Source: 2009 NC School Report Card.)

Community: Suburban
Enrollment: 1203
Grade Levels: 6-8
School Schedule: Traditional

Student Demographics

79% White
15% African American
4% Hispanic

14% Free/Reduced Lunch
2% English Learners

2007 AYP: High Growth, Honor School of Excellence

Met 29 of 29 performance targets

2008 AYP: High Growth, School of Distinction

Met 27 of 29 performance targets

2009 AYP: High Growth, Honor School of Distinction

Met 29 of 29 performance targets

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

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Thomas Jefferson Middle School is located in Winston-Salem, in the Piedmont Triad of North Carolina. The school is modeled on President Jefferson's model of an "academic village"... a setting in which all participants work together in the pursuit of knowledge. The school revolves a theme that stresses the relationship between the humanities and technology.

Academic Excellence

- All students are expected to learn with support.
- Curriculum is deep, significant and developmental in nature.
- Students are supported as they meet rigorous academic standards-tutoring, one hour classes, teachers tutor one day a week.
- Adults invest in professional development.
- ALL teachers support and enhance students' learning and achievement.

(Continued)

Developmental Responsiveness

- School environment is welcoming, supportive, organized.
- Use of instructional strategies is varied, excellent in math and science.
- School engages community (retired teachers tutor; local businesses involved)
- Co-curricular activities are excellent and varied
- Curriculum is socially significant and relevant. The curriculum has a clear vision

Social Equity

- Teachers use integrated units.
- Each child's voice is heard, acknowledged and respected.
- Great effort to welcome and encourage active participation of families.
- Suspension rate has decreased; using mentoring and staff to develop programs for specific subgroups

Organizational Support

- Key people cultivate and hold enterprise together.
- Shared vision drives the school and its programs and practices.
- A strong administrative team works effectively to ensure success.
- University partnerships are effective and articulated with school goals and needs.
- Family/community members help set trajectory at school (high performance).