



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

Kernersville Middle School



Designated in 2008

Kernersville Middle School • Winston-Salem/Forsyth County • Forsyth County • North Carolina • Debbie Brooks, Principal • 110 Brown Road, Kernersville, NC 27284 • Phone 336-996-5566 • E-mail dbrooks@wsfcs.k12.nc.us • Website http://www.wsfcs.k12.nc.us/education/school/school.php?sectionid=148&sc_id=1180106164

2009-10 School Statistics

(Source: 2009 NC School Report Card.)

Community: Suburban
Enrollment: 763
Grade Levels: 6-8
School Schedule: Traditional

Student Demographics

66% White
15% Hispanic
13% African American
2% Asian

40% Free/Reduced Lunch
8% English Learners

2007 AYP: School of Progress

Met 24 of 29 performance targets

2008 AYP: School of Progress

Met 25 of 29 performance targets

2009 AYP: Expected Growth, School of Progress

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

Kernersville Middle School is located in the piedmont region of North Carolina. It opened in 1998 under the theme of a Project Genesis Academy. In the past 12 years, they have demonstrated tremendous academic success. The faculty and students are justifiably proud of their accomplishments. The story behind Kernersville Middle School, however, is in their community involvement. Project Genesis has strong roots in research-based decision-making focusing on parent and community involvement. This school community has come together with the larger community to truly impact the town of Kernersville, and students have benefitted as a result.

Academic Excellence

- High expectations are communicated by everyone
- Students in alternative classrooms are expected to complete all assignments, including all projects.

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Academic Excellence *(continued)*

- A variety of effective instructional strategies were observed, including direct instruction, cooperative learning, simulations, project-based learning, and hands-on learning
- Strong integration of curriculum: PE incorporated into spelling and math, History Alive!, 8th Grade language arts - CD project are just a few examples

Developmental Responsiveness

- Teachers are passionate about their students' well-being
- Day Treatment Program with a licensed therapist is available
- Multiple opportunities abound for cultural awareness
- Career awareness is prevalent
- The Black Graveyard project with the Preservation Society provides strong ties to community
- It was evident that students have input, choices, and multiple opportunities to influence their curriculum and school experience
- Grade level End of Year projects allow for deep exploration of content interesting to students

Social Equity

- Targeted Tutoring program provides quick remediation for students who need it
- Teachers flex schedules including modifying planning periods to meet needs of students
- EC life skills instruction is very strong
- Fund raisers & scholarships allow all students to participate in field trips
- Family and Community Involvement is very strong: C.A.R.E.S. Program is a great model
- "It's My Call" Drug Free Program – 93% student participation
- Student success in ALC / Day Treatment Program is evident

Organizational Support

- Yearly survey data provides constant feedback from community
- Principal has created an inviting and positive culture that encourages teachers to be risk-takers
- Data provided by university partnerships are used to drive instruction
- Community support and communication are very strong
- In-house grants through Parent-Teacher Organization provide opportunities for teachers to deepen content and broaden student experiences