



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

### Seventy-First Middle School



#### Designated in 2006, Re-Designated 2009

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### 2009-10 School Statistics

(Source: 2009 NC School Report Card.)

Community: Suburban fringe of a small city  
Enrollment: 530  
Grade Levels: 6-8  
School Schedule: Traditional

#### Student Demographics

44% White  
41% African American  
8% Hispanic  
6% Asian

20% Free/Reduced Lunch  
3% English Learners

2007 AYP: High Growth, Honor School of Excellence  
Met 21 of 21 performance targets

2008 AYP: High Growth, Honor School of Distinction  
Met 21 of 21 performance targets

2009 AYP: High Growth, Honor School of Excellence  
Met 25 of 25 performance targets

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

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Seventy First Classical Middle School located in Fayetteville, and is a 100% School of Choice in the Cumberland County School System. This school has demonstrated tremendous academic success. Since 1998, the school has been labeled a School of Excellence by the state. The students and staff appear happy at Seventy-First. There is valuable input and buy-in from stakeholders when making decisions for the school. Parents are very pleased with programs and the care/concern shown by teachers and staff. Seventy-First Classical Middle is able to meet the needs of their students, parents, teachers and staff in an environment where excellence is expected yet students are nurtured.

### Academic Excellence

- High expectations are communicated by everyone in the school
- Inquiry Learning / Hands-On Science labs are interesting and effective
- Assessment comes in various forms: self-assessment, rubrics, projects, peer review, benchmark testing, and both formative & summative assessments are routine
- The school demonstrates a strong commitment to the arts as well as core academics. Artists and authors to come speak to the student body
- Instructional strategies involving higher-order approaches to thinking/questioning are the norm

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### **Developmental Responsiveness**

- Teachers are passionate about the students' well-being. We heard this repeatedly—not only from teachers, but also from parents and students
- Service learning is important, and students are engaged in real-world problem solving
- The Student Council meets weekly, and is an active voice for student involvement
- There is a strong use of integrated teaching strategies to engage students. The art teacher works with the social studies teacher to find overlap
- Each year the school surveys students to see if they are meeting students' needs. More importantly, the school makes changes based on the survey's results

### **Social Equity**

- All students have access to rigorous curriculum and co-curricular activities
- The Foreign Language Department was phenomenal
- Student “voice” is important and valued at Seventy-First
- 8-period daily schedule has an Advisory period. Everyone, including counselor and all elective teachers have an Advisory group that goes to lunch together
- A new wellness program replaces intramural program. All students are involved with this program.

### **Organizational Support**

- At the summer retreat, the staff re-visits their mission statement. This statement is read every day over the announcements with students and teachers widely repeating and internalizing it
- Professional Development is high priority
- Strong use of outside resources such as visiting authors and special guest speakers help to bring the curriculum to life for students
- Very active PTA – over 300 members with 2000+ volunteer hours
- Assessment is well-organized and frequent, and the school is organized for student success