



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

Southeast Middle School

2007-08 School Statistics

(Source: 2007 NC School Report Card.)

Community: Suburban fringe of a small city
Enrollment: 944
Grade Levels: 6-8
School Schedule: Traditional

Student Demographics

63% White
27% African American
8% Hispanic
2% Asian

36% Free/Reduced Lunch
3% English Learners

2005 AYP: No Recognition
Met 25 of 25 performance targets

2006 AYP: No Recognition
Met 23 of 25 performance targets

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

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

Designated in 2007

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School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Southeast Middle School is located in rural Forsyth County between Winston-Salem and Greensboro. It is a 6-8 school; the student population is approximately 944 and is diverse for the area. The school is six years old, and there is very little faculty and staff turnover. Students in grades 6-8 are grouped into two-person and four-person teams. The principal opened the school and has 34 years of experience.

Academic Excellence

- Classroom management is in place for challenging/engaging activities to occur.
- Alternate assessments and rubrics are prevalent
- Essential questions are posted in every class.
- Big 6 research instruction is used in all classes.
- Tutoring is available to any student at any time.

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Developmental Responsiveness

- The school provides access to services such as a school nurse, guidance counselors, psychologists, Lion's Club Eye Care Program, and a plethora of community volunteers who provide students with the opportunity to be involved in a club.
- Instructional strategies are available in great quantity and developmental levels. Future Focused learning is the school's theme. The school also teaches the Big 6 approach to research, and instruction definitely focuses on real world problems and situations.
- Clubs consist of three levels: academic, interest, and service. Students select the clubs they are interested in joining.
- The school has an active PTSA and eight business partners.
- The community uses the school. For instance, a church has services here.

Social Equity

- For students who cannot attend their club choice after school, time is provided during the school day for them to meet.
- All students have access to higher-level classes.
- Students learn about a variety of cultures through Spanish, French, and Italian classes. A sixth grade class is participating in the Sister City Program.
- Family nights provide an excellent way for parents and community members to participate in activities and have their voices heard.
- Students are rewarded for their hard work via the bulletin boards, honor rolls, intercom, etc.

Organizational Support

- Team identity exists at every grade level.
- PTSA and business partners are very active within the school and support the staff and students in any way possible.
- The school has four "sacred Mondays." These days are used to meet the needs of students.
- Activities at SEMS are developed based on the needs of its students.
- Colleges, including Wake Forest, East Carolina, and Forsyth Tech, are partnered with SEMS.