



*The Mission of South Middle School,
in partnership with home and community, is as follows:*

S tudent-focused and performance-driven

+

M ultiple opportunities for student success

+

S afe and supportive environment

= Achievement and learning for all!

2008-2009 Enrollment

South Middle School serves 600 students in sixth through eighth grades. Daily attendance averages 90%. All students are assigned to South Middle School based upon residency within the geographic boundaries of the District as well as students who transfer in based upon seating availability and class sizes.



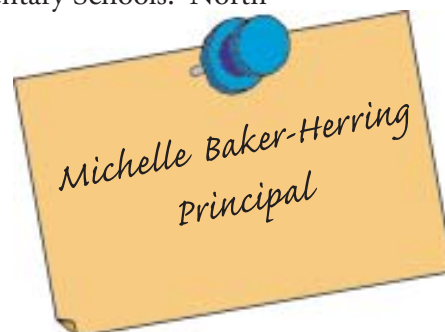
Teaching and Support Staff

Teachers: 38

Professional and other support staff include: A school psychologist, school social worker, inclusion teachers, school counselor, home bound / hospitalized services staff, bilingual specialists, an "At-Risk" teacher and two "At-Risk" paraprofessionals. Assisting all of us in keeping the building operating in a systematic manner, maintaining a clean building, serving nutritious food, and helping teachers and students are the custodians, secretaries, paraprofessionals, and cafeteria personnel. Parents may request information on the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teacher or paraprofessional by contacting the principal.

Accreditation

Accreditation is a process whereby staff, district personnel, and the Board of Education, as a district, undergo a set of preconditions or standards identified as necessary for a quality education. These standards are identified by an external source such as the North Central Association, the State of Michigan, or the Association for Evaluation of Elementary Schools. North Central Association has granted South Middle School "New School" status as of April 2003. South Middle School's Michigan School Report Card composite grade for 2009 is B.



Core Curriculum

The core curriculum at South Middle School provides learning activities and experiences which encompass: art, computers, careers and employability skills, diversity awareness, enrichment activities, health, instrumental and vocal music, language arts (reading, writing, speaking, spelling, and listening), life skills, industrial technology, mathematics, physical education, science, and the social sciences.



Staff Members Build Skills

In order to ensure a well-trained staff that understands the importance of teaching for learning, 67% (29/43) of the South Middle School staff spent over 843 "person hours" participating in the following professional staff development activities during this school year. The list includes workshops in: Assessment and Curriculum, Band Tours--Elementary, Classroom Assessments, District Math Committee, Secondary Level Department Meetings, Algebra for All, MI Music Education Conference, MI Science Teachers' Conference, Co-teaching Strategies, Classroom Strategies for Inclusion, Summer Team Meetings, Zangle Training, Co-teaching That Works, Day One & Beyond, Assessment for Learning, HIV/AIDS Certification, Sexuality Curriculum, Building Technology Leader Workshop, MACUL, Closing Achievement Gaps, Effective Intervention, MEAP Data Analysis grades 3-8, Class A, Math AYP Aligning Instruction and NMSA Annual Conference.

Parent Involvement Crucial to Success

We provide a variety of opportunities for our parents to attend events in our building. Our Fall Open House attendance was 41%.

South continued a team preparation period in its daily schedule. This provides each of the six teaching teams opportunities to hold student-parent meetings whenever needs arise.

Student-led conferences were held this year and parental participation at our Fall Student Led Conferences was 78%, while we had a 61% attendance rate at our Spring Conferences.

Other parent involvement activities included: Athletes' Parents, Band Parents, Classroom Volunteers, Field Trip Sponsors, Grade Level Orientations, Geography Bee, Instrumental Music Lessons, Intramural & Interscholastic Sports Programs, Mastery Projects, Multi-Cultural Activities, North Central Accreditation Team, National Junior Honor Society, Music Concerts (Instrumental & Vocal), Parent-Teacher-Student Organization, Parent and Grandparent Volunteers as Mentors & Speakers, Student-Led-Teacher Team Conferences, School Improvement Team, Sixth Grade Outdoor Education Program, School Play, Bring Your Parent to School Day, MEAP Tailgate, MEAP Parade, and March Madness.

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title II of the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, and Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1977, it is the policy of the Van Buren Public Schools District that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, gender, age, disability, height, weight, or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to, discrimination during any program, activity, service or in employment. Should you need to contact someone about discrimination of any kind in the school district, contact the Director of Personnel at 555 West Columbia Avenue, Belleville, MI 48111 or (734)697-9123, ext. 211.

Points of Pride

At South Middle School, we are proud of the following learning opportunities provided for our students during this school year:

Contests

Geography Bee
Solo and Ensemble
Music Festival
VFW Essay Contest
Multiplication Mayhem
Door Decorating
Golden Pumpkin
Team-Building
Integeropolous

Proactive Measures

Advisory Service Learning Projects
Learning Projects
Lunch Tutoring
Channel One News
Food Drive
Guided Study
Health and Fitness Center
Honor Roll
Jar Wars Fund Raisers
NJHS Mentoring
Merit Referrals
Reward Zone
R.O.A.R. Reading Program
Special Education Inclusion
Student Led Conferences
Positive Behavior Support (PBS)
Student Presentations

Student Recognition
Study Groups
Special Education Inclusion
Merit Referrals
Math Activities
Service Learning

Interdisciplinary Projects

Core Democratic Values
Thematic units within classrooms
Team Teaching
Writing Across Curriculum

Events

Belleville Art Show
Camera Day
Concerts -Vocal & Instrumental
Grade Level Recognition Ceremony
Guest Speaker Program
Incoming 6th Grade Orientation
Pennies for Patients
Movin' On Up (high school orientation)
Talent Show
MEAP Tailgate
MEAP Parade
Open House

P.T.S.O. Senior Scholarship
Reality Store (Community Businesses)
6th Grade Outdoor Education
Spirit Week
Technology Dinner

Communication

Announcements (WSMS)
Channel #19 (Community Access Channel)
District Web Site
Homework Hotline
Monthly Newsletter
Parent Connect
Print Media Releases
P.T.S.O.
Student Planners
Student-Parent-Teacher Surveys
PTSO Senior Scholarship

Activities

Annual Book Fair
Chess Club
Flag Corps
Fun Afternoons/Nights
Fund raising activities
Inter-School Sports (12)

Intramural Sports (20)
(6th Grade only)
Jazz Band
Principal's Council
National Junior Honor Society
Pep Band
School Newspaper
"Green Team" Recycle Club
Student Council
Yearbook
Young Authors

Field Trips

Crosswinds Marsh
Detroit Science Center
Detroit Zoo
Eastern Michigan University
Greenfield Village
Hands-On Museum
Henry Ford Museum
Honor & Festival Bands
IMAX Theatre
Gleaners Food Bank
Detroit Edison Power Plant
Metro Parks
Just Build It

School Improvement Goals

School Improvement Goals have been developed to meet AYP in the areas of reading, writing, math, science and social studies and increasing all student reading grade levels by .5 yearly.

We will meet these goals by:

- a. Common exams and pre and post tests in all academic areas.
- b. Implementing effective formative/summative assessments.
- c. Team meetings to identify learning obstacles, establish parental communication, and develop team projects.
- d. Department meetings to determine alignment of curriculum, develop assessments, and create lessons using the Backward Design Model.
- e. Curriculum, lesson plans and white boards all reflecting GLCE's, benchmarks, and class goals.
- f. Enhancing communication through the use of planners, white boards, Homework Hotline, and Parent Connect.
- g. Pyramid of Intervention
 - Analyze Star Math and Star Reading (determine student needs)
 - Offer Advisory to focus on academic interventions and character education.
 - Offer Math activities and writing activities to address students' areas of weakness.
 - Build student portfolios
 - Expand Parent Mentor Program (involve community)
- h. Practice differentiation in instruction, assessment and grading in every classroom.

Challenges We Face

- Refinement of core curriculum (GLCE's/State Benchmarks) with time to develop this curriculum and materials to implement and supplement it.
- Continued development of thematic and interdisciplinary units.
- Procurement of funding for: school reorganization, staff development, facilities (furnishings and equipment), garnering community support, and continued technological improvements.
- Development of programs to service the needs of "more children with more severe problems", i.e. No Child Left Behind (NCLB).
- Increased computer accessibility for all students and continued integration of technology into the instructional process.
- Increase levels of student motivation and productivity.
- Greater involvement with businesses, community, government, health care agencies, parents, and universities.
- Further defining what is being taught in elective classes and how this integrates into and with the core curriculum classes.
- Making education a school, family, and community priority by increasing involvement in our school community and PTSO.
- Common grade level assessments increase data analysis to develop a more responsive curriculum.
- Increasing the instructional coordination between the grade levels.
- Increasing the collaboration between both middle schools.
- Continuing as a North Central Association accredited school.
- Addressing the parameters and requirements of NCLB and Education, YES!
- Working toward creating a true middle school model.
- Developing enrichment after school and summer school programs.
- Further development of a character education component in our curriculum.
- Continue with our service learning projects.
- Utilizing our electronic grade book and attendance program (Zangle).
- Fully differentiating in every classroom in instruction, assessment, and grading.

Test Results

MEAP Scores by Grade Level

Additional disaggregated test data is on file at the school building and on the district web site at www.vanburenschools.net

	2007-2008 % Proficient	2008-2009 % Proficient
Grade 6		
Reading	69	76
Writing	63	68
ELA (reading and writing)	67	74
Math	64	83
Social Studies	54	64
Grade 7		
Reading	59	78
Writing	70	71
ELA (reading and writing)	63	75
Math	58	83
Grade 8		
Reading	73	70
Writing	66	75
ELA (reading and writing)	69	73
Math	60	65
Science	72	69