

SCHOOLS TO WATCH

VISITOR'S GUIDE

Baldwin Street Middle School



Designated in 2009

School: Baldwin Street Middle School
District: Hudsonville Public Schools
County: Ottawa
State: Michigan
Principal: Dave Powers
School Address: 3835 Baldwin Street
Hudsonville, MI 49426
Phone: 616-669-7750
Email: dpowers@hudsonville.k12.mi.us
School Web Site: www.hudsonville.k12.mi.us

2008 School Statistics

Community: The Hudsonville Public Schools serve 5,600 students in a suburban community located in southwest Michigan.

Enrollment: 787

Grade Levels: 6-8

School Schedule: 6 period traditional

Student Demographics

- 4% Hispanic
- 92% White
- 2% African American
- 1% Asian
- 1% Native American

- 14% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 1% English Learners

2006 AYP: Yes

2007 AYP: Yes

2008 AYP: Yes

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Much PD and strategy implementation has been instituted to support students with reading and writing in the content areas. Non-core staff equally reinforces these skills as well. MEAP scores have risen steadily since inception of these practices. (Chris Tovani's work and 6 + 1 Writing Traits)
- The strategic use of both Formative and Summative assessment information is the key ingredient in our work with students.
- Aligned curriculum standards and benchmarks are labeled and tracked via Common Unit Assessments and disaggregated reporting from Mastery Manager (Data Warehouse).
- BMS adheres to the tenants of Professional Learning Communities and have clearly defined the "BIG FOUR" questions of curriculum:
 - What do we want students to know and be able to do?
 - How will we know if they learned it?
 - What we will do if they haven't learned it? (Pyramid of Interventions) and
 - What will we do if they know it before we've taught it?
- Collaboration is another key to the success of HPS middle schools.

Developmental Responsiveness

- All students are held accountable for appropriate Life Skills performance as evidenced by a rubric based system for monitoring Classroom Behavior, Study Skills, and Work Ethic.
- Students and staff are arranged geographically in the building by Teams. There are 2 teams per grade level with 4 or 5 teachers per Team.
- Students have a “homeroom” teacher and a counselor who are the primary advocates, although every teacher strives to build and maintain a relationship with their kids.
- The counselor relationship maintains throughout the entire MS experience.
- Study/organizational skills are woven into content area instruction, as well as reading and writing in the content area.
- Technology instruction is mandatory at each grade level with additional electives offered for student to delve deeper.
- A full slate of award winning performing arts are offered in the music department with close to 2/3's of all students participating in either band, orchestra, or choir.

Social Equity

- Qualified students are placed in classes that provide academic support (Independent study and Study support)
- After school enrichment and intervention based opportunities are in place to support students.
- Content area teachers collaborate and amend assessments, instruction, and programs to meet the needs of students.
- Students with disabilities are instructed in co-taught math and English courses.
- Students are given the opportunity to choose courses in a variety of areas of enrichment.

Organizational Support

- This year our combined middle schools rolled out a new common grading policy which embraces the most researched based information we could find.
- Every department (and grade levels within) has identified “SMART” goals which are monitored continually and adjusted as necessary from year to year.
- Our goals, processes and results are regularly shared with both students and parents. We seek to foster learners who take responsibility for their achievement and are active participants in a system which values “Getting To” go to school over “Having To” go to school.
- Well established transitioning processes are in place to aid students entering AND exiting the middle school program.
- PD is driven by needs as identified by staff and administration to support our laser focus on student achievement.
- This staff has proven time and again that they believe ALL kids can learn and routinely go the extra mile in making certain that “Failure is NOT an Option.”