

# SCHOOLS TO WATCH

## VISITOR'S GUIDE

### Mill Creek Middle School



#### 2007-2008 School Statistics

**Community:** Suburban  
**Enrollment:** 621  
**Grade Levels:** 7-8  
**School Schedule:** A/B Block Schedule

#### Student Demographics

1% Hispanic  
96% Caucasian  
1% African American  
.5% American Indian or Alaska Native  
1.5% Asian American  
1% Hispanic or Latino

7% Free/Reduced Lunch  
<1% English Language Learners

**2005 AYP:** MET  
**2006 AYP:** MET  
**2007 AYP:** MET

#### Designated in 2007

**Middle School:** Mill Creek Middle School  
**District:** Dexter  
**County:** Washtenaw  
**State:** Michigan  
**Principal:** Jami R. Bronson  
**School Address:** 7305 Dexter Ann Arbor Rd.  
Dexter, MI 48130  
**Phone:** 734-424-4150  
**E-mail:** bronson@dexter.k12.mi.us  
**School Web site:**  
<http://web.dexter.k12.mi.us/~millcreek/index.html>

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

### Academic Excellence

- Mill Creek uses an A/B day schedule, which utilizes large blocks of time and alternate days to give teachers the time needed to incorporate best-practice instruction.
- Offers Spanish, German, French, and Algebra One for high school credit
- Has established Professional Learning Communities allowing departments to develop common assessments, units, and common grading practices
- Students have over 40 electives to choose from, courses aligned to the state benchmarks offering enrichment and support.
- Use of a variety of authentic assessment
- Teams consisting of core content and special education staff
- Highly qualified staff who are experts at the middle level
- Several Interventions built into the elective day to help support students at risk
- Common Planning Time for academic teams

## **Schools to Watch**

### ***Mill Creek Middle School***

#### **Academic Excellence** *(continued)*

- All seventh grade students meet high school online requirement by taking required online Career's course.
- All students belong to a team creating a small community with the team
- Students with disabilities are part of the regular education program with accommodations

#### **Developmental Responsiveness**

- Conducts student led conferences – 99% attendance rate
- Has an established a Community Service and Leadership program where over 3000 hours or more are logged each year.
- Students are part of the teacher interview committee and are an integral part in hiring new teachers
- Over 40 electives offering student choices in their academic schedule
- Support programs for students in need
- Enrichment for students who master curriculum
- Student Planning Center allowing students to problem solve and develop better choices in situations.
- Character Education Program
- Well versed staff in use of technology and middle level best practices
- Monthly parent coffee hours
- Quarterly parent activities, bringing families into school for fun activities and networking
- Parent and student access to grades online
- Online courses and book discussions part of general education classroom

#### **Social Equity**

- All students have access to general education program with support from special education staff
- Year long Problem Solving Olympics to teach students problem solving and collaboration
- Bi-weekly intervention involving academic teachers, counselor, social worker, and administration, to discuss each student's academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs.
- All students have ability to be part in student council. Upon leaving middle school each student may be part of planning after school activities and a participating in a leadership role.
- All students are invited to participate in after school activities, lock ins, dances, sports, and music...
- Extensive Art and Music curriculum for students to choose from.
- Student work posted through out classrooms and building
- Students accessed early in the year on learning styles and share information and strategies with parents.
- Community connections established with elementary buildings, local businesses, and universities.
- Student Study teams to help develop programming and interventions

#### **Organizational Support**

- A/B Block Scheduling
- Common Planning time for Teams
- Release time for departments to prepare common assessments, units, and common grading practices
- Team Leader planning time
- Teacher time to observe peers teaching
- Building Leadership Team established to plan useful professional development
- On going building and department review of student achievement, discipline, and attendance data
- Team websites, homework sites, and homework hotlines for student and parent use.
- Ongoing professional development
- Book Clubs established – Professional dialogue