

The Illinois Learning Standards are statements, which define a core of essential knowledge, and skills that Illinois students enrolled in public schools are expected to know and be able to do. Student achievement of these standards, as tested with the Illinois Standards Achievement Tests (ISAT) is essential in accordance with the passage of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) federal legislation. Scores reported on this report card reflect the progress of students in grades seven and eight, as mandated by state law.

The School Improvement Plan is revised annually in each building. We will continue to study our demographic base and to critically examine methods by which we evaluate student performance. We will also continue to assess our educational program to ensure that it meets the needs of all of our students. The Internal Review Team, made up of Memorial Junior High School educators, will continue to assess the progress we are making to reach our goals. These goals are reflected in our School Improvement Plan.

Memorial Junior High School, which operates under the middle school philosophies and concepts, offers a nurturing academic and extracurricular program to our student body. Memorial also offers enrichment opportunities to those students who qualify. The exploratory classes of Art, Civics, Mission Math, Music, Strategic Reading and Technology expose our students to other interests outside of the core curricular areas. The video production lab, which creates closed-circuit television broadcasting throughout the school, is readily available for class and faculty use. Interdisciplinary units of instruction offer our students the needed correlation from one subject area to the next. Athletic opportunities are provided via daily physical education classes and interscholastic sports. Our extracurricular program is comprised of clubs and organizations that increase student participation. The Music department continues to earn national and state recognition for their efforts.

During the current 2004-2005 school year, Memorial Junior High School will continue to implement the middle school concept for all students. Three grade levels have been successfully grouped into six interdisciplinary teams led by four teachers each. Continual positive feedback from students, staff, and parents allows us to continue this approach to education. Curriculum is constantly being reviewed and revised. We are currently in the process of developing and implementing a new math curriculum that aligns to the Illinois Learning Standards and meets the requirements of the NCLB federal legislation.

Staff development opportunities give the needed assistance to teachers to evaluate current trends in education. The staff and administration is committed to implementing methods and strategies that enhance student learning. Memorial has also started an administrative driven mentoring program that provides assistance and support for beginning staff members.

Our Director of Curriculum, Assessment, and Technology, along with the district computer liaison, keeps the students and staff of Memorial abreast of the most current technological opportunities to engage student learning.

Increasing numbers of transient and low-income students are making an impact on our test scores. We continue to monitor our school demographics to determine areas of concern and to devise strategies for meeting the needs of our disaggregate groups.

Opportunities for student improvement in writing and reading are currently in place this year. They include a teacher-driven, school-wide effort to implement writing across the curriculum in all core subject areas. Our Accelerated Reader program now encompasses all grade levels and offers incentives to increase student participation.

Memorial Junior High School has a very active PTA that provides support for our student body. They engage in activities such as: Scholastic Book Fair, Reflections Program, bake sales, hot lunch, and our eighth grade dance. Their service to our school is greatly appreciated by both students and staff.

No report card can accurately describe the excellence and diversity of our entire Memorial Junior High School program. We are extremely proud of our students' efforts and achievements. We are equally proud of our staff's ability to recognize talents and gifts as they encourage each student to achieve their highest potential.

If you have any questions or comments concerning this report card, please call your building principal, Robert Zimbelman (708 - 474- 2383) or Superintendent Veronda Cottle (708 - 474 - 6700) at any time.

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