

PLANNED IMPROVEMENT FOR THE SCHOOL AND DISTRICT

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 our 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. Our Internal Review team, consisting of Memorial Junior High school staff members, 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 well-rounded experience to our student body. The balance of academic and extracurricular activities is an aspect that we take great pride in at Memorial. The block subject classes of Art, Civics, Mission Math, Music, Strategic Reading, and Technology expose our students to other interests outside of the core curricular areas. Interdisciplinary units of instruction offer our students the needed correlation from one subject area to another. For those students who qualify, we continue to offer enrichment opportunities. Athletic opportunities are provided daily via participation in daily physical education, as well as, interscholastic sports. Clubs and organizations round out our extracurricular program as our goal is to increase student participation.

During the 2005-2006 school year, Memorial Junior High School will continue to implement the middle school philosophy for all students. Currently, each grade level is divided into two interdisciplinary teams led by four staff members. Continual positive feedback from students, parents, and staff allows us to continue this effective approach to education. Curriculum revision is a continual process as we strive to deliver the best educational practices to our students. We are implementing our new math curriculum which aligns to the Illinois Learning Standards and meets the requirements of the NCLB federal guidelines.

Staff development opportunities give the needed assistance to teachers to evaluate the most current and best practices in education. The staff and administration is committed to implementing methods and strategies that enhance student learning and outcomes. We are continuing our administrative driven mentoring program that provides assistance and support for beginning staff members.

Increasing numbers of transient and low-income students are making an impact on our test scores. We are continually striving to better understand and implement practices that will assist us in educating our disaggregate groups. Ruby Payne's strategies from "A Framework for Understanding Poverty," are being implemented throughout the year. Opportunities for improving student learning in writing, math, and reading are also in place. Continuation of our writing across the curriculum initiative and the formulation of a reading study group will assist in the improvement of student scores in these 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, and our eighth grade dance. Their service to our school is greatly appreciated by both students and staff members.

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 Zimelman at 708-474-2383 or Superintendent Veronda Cottle at 708-474-6700 at any time.

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