

PLANNED IMPROVEMENT FOR THE SCHOOL AND DISTRICT

As we assess how our schools did in meeting the standards of No Child Left Behind (NCLB), we are very proud of making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) with all of our subgroups except our Students with Disabilities subgroup. Since all subgroups must make AYP according to NCLB, Memorial did not achieve this status for the 2006-2007 school year. 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 NCLB federal legislation. Scores reported on this report card reflect the progress of students in grades six, 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 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 the School Improvement Plan.

Memorial Junior High School, which continues to operate under the middle school philosophies and concepts, offers a nurturing academic and extracurricular program to our student body. Memorial Junior High School 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. Interdisciplinary units of instruction offer our students that much needed correlation from one subject matter to the next. Memorial also provided athletic opportunities via daily physical education classes and interscholastic sports. Our extracurricular program is comprised of clubs and organizations that increase student participation. In addition, our band and choir continue to earn statewide recognition for their efforts.

During the current 2007-2008 school year, Memorial Junior High School will continue to implement the middle school concept for all students. Construction continues at Memorial this year and we anticipate the completion of the 7th and 8th grade communities this winter and spring. The new areas will foster the team concept by increasing the space available for classes, conferencing and cross-team activities. Three grade levels have been successfully grouped into six interdisciplinary teams led by five 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 implementing a Reading/Language Arts curriculum that aligns to the Illinois Learning Standards and meets the requirements of the NCLB federal legislation. The T. F. Cooperative was very helpful in aligning and developing the curriculum.

Staff development opportunities give the needed assistance to teachers to evaluate current trends in education and plan for meeting the diverse needs of all students. The staff and administration is committed to implementing methods and strategies that enhance student learning. We are continuing to implement Ruby Payne strategies for understanding poverty as well as embarking on the concept of Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS). Memorial also continues to provide an administrative driven mentoring program that provides assistance and support for beginning staff members.

Our Director of Curriculum, Assessment, and Technology, along with the Computer Technician/Network Specialist, keeps the students and staff of Memorial Junior High school abreast of the most current technological opportunities to engage in student learning.

Increasing numbers of transient, low-income, and students with disabilities 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. AIMSWeb testing will also allow us to identify those students who are in need and allow our staff members to provide them with the support they need to be successful. Opportunities for student improvement in math, reading, and writing 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, administered by our reading/literature teachers, offers incentives to increase student participation. Our new library/media center will hopefully attract students to read.

Memorial Junior High School has a very active PTA that provides support and activities for our student body. They engage in activities such as: Scholastic Book Fair, Family Reading Night, Reflections Program, bake sales, eighth grade dance, movie nights, and our talent show. Their service to the students and staff is greatly appreciated.

No report card can accurately describe the excellence and diversity of our entire Memorial Junior High School program. Although our students with disabilities sub-group did not meet AYP, we are very proud of the students' progress and the commitment of our fine staff members. We are equally as proud of our staff's ability to recognize and fulfill student potential.

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

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