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**PLANNED IMPROVEMENT FOR THE SCHOOL AND DISTRICT**

We are very pleased to announce that Memorial Junior High School has made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the 2008-2009 school year. In compliance with the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), all of our sub-groups met or exceeded standards in the areas of reading, math, science, and writing. We are very proud of making AYP and attribute our success to the efforts of our student body, parental involvement, and our dedicated staff members. 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 data in order to provide meaningful learning opportunities for all students. We will also continue to assess our educational programs 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 offers a well-rounded 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 Literacy, 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 provides athletic opportunities via daily physical education classes and interscholastic sports. Our extracurricular program is comprised of clubs and organizations that increase student participation. As of this school year, Memorial Junior High School was accepted as a member of the South Suburban Junior High School Association which allows us to provide more extracurricular opportunities for our student body. In addition, our band and choir continue to earn statewide recognition for their efforts.

During the current 2009-2010 school year, Memorial Junior High School will continue to implement our Response to Intervention program (RTI) as a means of supporting all of our students. This endeavor encompasses both the social-emotional and academic standards of learning. We will continue to utilize the AIMSWeb assessment tool in order to monitor the progress of our students in the areas of reading comprehension, reading fluency, and mathematical computation. These assessment results will help the teaching staff to identify areas of weakness and allow them to provide the appropriate interventions. We will continue with our school wide effort to implement writing across the curriculum in all core subject areas. We will also focus on our local monthly math assessments which will allow our math department to address the specific needs of our target subgroups. Our Accelerated reader program, administered by our reading/literature teachers, offers incentives to increase student participation. Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) will continue in its second year. Memorial will continue with our behavior reward system which has drastically reduced the number of office referrals and suspensions. Our philosophy is to continually teach the child in the areas of academics and behavior.

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 and all staff members had a refresher course during our opening institute days. Memorial has partnered with ISC4 to provide a 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. Memorial implemented the use of SmartBoard technology last year and will continue the same efforts this year. Memorial has also created a computer lab for each of our learning communities.

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 our students and staff is greatly appreciated.

No report card can accurately describe the excellence and diversity of our entire Memorial Junior High School program. 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 Cecilia Heiberger (708)474-6700 at any time.

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**QUALITY EDUCATION: Putting the Children First. The School District 158 Advantage!**

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