



ACADEMICALLY EXCELLENT. High-performing schools with middle grades are academically excellent. They challenge all students to use their minds well.

1. All students are expected to meet high academic standards.
2. Curriculum, instruction, and assessment are aligned with high standards.
3. The curriculum emphasizes deep understanding of important concepts, development of essential skills.
4. Instructional strategies include a variety of challenging and engaging activities that are clearly related to the concepts and skills being taught.
5. Teachers use a variety of methods to assess student performance (e.g., exhibitions, projects, performance tasks).
6. The faculty and master schedule provide students time to meet rigorous academic standards.
7. Students are provided the support they need to meet rigorous academic standards.
8. The adults in the school are provided time and frequent opportunities to enhance student achievement by working with colleagues to deepen their knowledge and to improve their standards-based practices.