



SCHOOLS TO WATCH – VIRGINIA

ST. CLARE WALKER MIDDLE SCHOOL – VISITOR'S GUIDE



St. Clare Walker Middle School



Re-Designated in 2013

St. Clare Walker Middle School • Middlesex County Public
Schools • Middlesex County, VA • Dr. Tracy Seitz, Principal
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2014-2015 School Statistics

(Sources: VDOE Report Card)

Community: Rural
Enrollment: 295
Grade Levels: 6-8
School Schedule: Block with Alternating EA/PE

Student Demographics

- 73.3% White
- 1.8% Hispanic of any race
- 20.0% African American
- <1% Asian
- 25% Multi-Racial
- 43.0% Economically Disadvantaged
- 9.0% Special Education

Fully Accredited by VDOE:	2013, 2014, 2015
Math Pass Rate $\geq 91\%$:	2013, 2014, 2015
English Pass Rate $\geq 84\%$:	2013, 2014, 2015
Science Pass Rate $\geq 86\%$:	2013, 2014, 2015
Writing Pass Rate $> 74\%$:	2013, 2014, 2015
History Pass Rate $\geq 92\%$:	2013, 2014, 2015

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Daily LASER period (Learning Advancement through Support, Enrichment and Remediation): 30 minutes each day dedicated to remediation, re-teaching, enrichment, clubs and community service projects
- 90 minute core instructional blocks that provide for intensive, rigorous instruction along with ample time for guided and individual practice with necessary, immediate feedback
- High school course offerings: Algebra I, Geometry, and Earth Science
- Language Arts PLUS courses designed to prepare students for the rigor and expectations of Honors/Advanced Placement/Dual Enrollment English coursework at the high school level.
- Faculty members regularly serve on SOL Item and Test Review Committees to help ensure the tests accurately measure student knowledge
- Collaborative instruction is the focus at SCW, and teachers are provided time in the daily schedule for grade-level team meetings to address academic concerns
- The administrative team relies on collaboration for the decision-making that drives the school – an empowered faculty generates a feeling of ownership for future success
- Interactive online resources for mathematics and reading are also accessible at home
- The media center offers Kindles for checkout with a large number e-books available
- KUNO (android product) available in all classrooms for independent student use for research, interactive lessons, testing, etc.
- The staff recognizes collaborative efforts don't stop within the building; the faculty and staff nurture parent and community cooperation through one-on-one conferences, phone calls, emails, principal's coffees, homework blogs, etc.
- The National Junior Honor Society members work during the year on community/school service projects, volunteer in school and community events, and participate as tutors in weekly peer tutoring sessions.

Developmental Responsiveness

- Faculty collaboratively plan multisensory lessons while building in extension activities as well as opportunities for remediation to ensure differentiation of instruction
- Departments use vertical planning to cultivate seamless transitions as students progress through middle school
- The mentor program works to assign identified students with staff members who assist with their academic or social needs
- To continue to increase parental involvement, competitions are organized for students to receive incentives when their parents attend an event at school. Students may receive free ice cream or even a pizza party, while parents may be given an article of SCW spirit wear for attending
- Grade level team planning not only allows for curriculum planning, but a time for teachers to invite parents in for team meetings, as well as student team meetings.
- “Good News” notes are a means of making positive contacts with parents in place of a phone call
- Members of the students body are selected quarterly for presentations of classroom activities/ projects to the Middlesex County School Board.
- Community service is encouraged through clubs such as, Builders, SCA, TSA and Environmental Club
- The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program is incorporated throughout the school and bi-weekly class meetings work through topics such as self-respect, self-awareness, empathy and tolerance
- Therapeutic Day Treatment services, through the local Community Services Board, are offered within the building for identified students. These students also receive services through the summer with the therapist who provides these services during the school year
- All classrooms identify a “student of the month”, who are highlighted within the school, school board and local community.

Social Equity

- With a motto and philosophy of *“Every Student Will”*, SCW affords every student a quality education regardless of their demographic background.
- Weekly meetings are held between the principal, dean of students and team teachers to discuss the overall progress, needs, strengths and weaknesses of students.
- Students volunteer at the local humane society, kindergarten classrooms, community festivals, and hold fundraisers to support Relay for Life, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Leukemia/Lymphoma Society and the Make a Wish Foundation.
- All 8th grade students participate in the Reality Store, which consists of various activities aiming to help 8th graders explore their strengths and career interests. Eighth grade teachers and guidance work with the local Virginia Cooperative Extension Office and members of the Middlesex Rotary Club to offer this experience.
- Middle School 101 is held in August and provides a time for students to learn more about what their middle school experience will be, as well as how to open their lockers!
- Schoolwide pep rallies and a variety show contribute to all students feeling the Seahawk school spirit.
- SCW partners with Hands Across Middlesex to provide meals to identified students on the weekends and these “backpacks” are sent home each Friday.

Organizational Support

- Professional development is rich and runs continuously all year, including summer workshops
- SCW partners with the Regional Educational Consortium and Rappahannock Community College, The School University Research Network (SURN), and Virginia’s School-University Partnership (VSUP) to provide additional opportunities for staff.
- Student data is tracked and monitored regularly by teachers and administration through online databases.
- The dean of students works closely with the high school guidance department to assist in course selections for the next year
- Rising Freshman Night is coordinated and held at the high school for 8th grader parents and students