



# SCHOOLS TO WATCH – VIRGINIA

## WILLIAM BYRD MIDDLE SCHOOL – VISITOR'S GUIDE

### William Byrd Middle School



#### Designated in 2016

**William Byrd** Middle School • Roanoke County Public School • Roanoke County, VA • Tammy Newcomb, Principal • 2910 Washington Ave, Vinton, VA 24179  
• Tel (540) 890-1035, Fax (540) 890-1035  
Website: [William Byrd Middle](http://www.williambyrdmiddle.com)

### 2015-2016 School Statistics

*(Sources: Student enrollment as of March 14, 2016 compiled from SYNERGY and the current VDOE school report card)*

Community: Vinton, VA  
Enrollment: 802  
Grade Levels: 6-8  
School Schedule: Hybrid Block A/B Days

#### Student Demographics

- 87.9% White
- 2% Hispanic
- 4% African American
- 1% Asian
- 4% Other
- 32.7% Economically Disadvantaged
- 15.5% Special Education
- <1% English Language Learners

Fully Accredited by VDOE:		2013, 2014, 2015
Math Pass Rate	≥89%:	2013, 2014, 2015
English Pass Rate	>80%:	2013, 2014, 2015
Science Pass Rate	>79%:	2013, 2014, 2015
History Pass Rate	≥90%:	2013, 2014, 2015

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

### Academic Excellence:

- William Byrd Middle believes students can learn and meet high standards
- Staff has been provided differentiated teaching and learning techniques
- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade 1:1 laptops
- Technology is well integrated into learning experiences as a tool to promote learner engagement and make real world connections.
- Administration and guidance identify borderline students to help provide support to move them into advance classes
- Data driven instruction in all classes
- Administration meets bimonthly to discuss data and assessments to determine individual needs and to offer support
- Instructional time is valued and protected from interruption
- Common plan time for core grade level teachers to design common assessments and plan together
- PreAP courses and high school credited courses available to all students...all students are encouraged to take at least one PreAP class each school year
- 60% of students in advance math, 44% of students in advance English

- Accelerated math class available to qualifying students allowing those students to take Algebra in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and geometry in 8<sup>th</sup> grade...
- 67% of students are taking Algebra or Geometry in 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- All students are afforded a balanced literacy plan: students participate in flex groups according to instructional reading levels, LLI intervention when needed and enrichment opportunities
- All students have 30 minutes daily to read in English classes
- Makers Space available to students before school, during lunches and after school on selected days
- Grade level academic assemblies at the end of the school year
- 96% of identified special education students are fully included in all core classes with support
- 100% of SPED students are fully included in elective classes and lunch
- 33% of students participate in the music programs at WBMS
- College in Six program is implemented so that every child visits a college as a 6<sup>th</sup> grader. Students are then able to attend a college fair presented from former students.
- Career Day

### **Developmental Responsiveness:**

- Master schedule follows a block schedule that provides an extended opportunity for students to learn
- Clubs and athletics available to all students.
- Makers Space available to all students before school, during lunches and after school
- Comprehensive school counseling services include individual sessions, groups and classroom lessons
- Ambassadors help new students and 6<sup>th</sup> graders transition
- Articulation meetings with elementary schools and the high school to help rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders and 9<sup>th</sup> graders transition
- Orientation for 6<sup>th</sup> graders allow parents to be informed while students meet their teachers, follow schedule and practice with their lockers
- SAP services intervene when behaviors begin to impede academic progress. Groups include life skills, substance abuse counseling, conflict resolution, and anger management
- As a school community WBMS takes an active role in supporting charitable organizations, Relay for Life, CF walk,
- Student council association provides a voice for all students.
- CIA: Character in Action club is available for all students to participate during lunches once a week to promote good character and community service.
- Administrator and guidance counselor loop with grade level for three years
- The school plant is designed for middle school, grade levels are housed on separate hallways, use specific stairwells ....
- WBMS employs a variety of sources to communicate and publicize information to parents utilizing Blackboard, school website, email, Parentvue and parent link
- Students are afforded the opportunity to purchase breakfast before school and after first block

### **Social Equity:**

- 96% of SPED students are in inclusive core classes with support
- 100% of SPED students are in inclusive elective classes and lunch
- Data meetings are held bimonthly to discuss student weaknesses. Team brainstorms to find solutions for struggling students. Central office is at times involved in funding support or offering assistance to teachers
- Conference days are scheduled from 12:00-7:00 to allow for parents who work the opportunity to speak with teachers
- Orientations and PTA events are organized by parents

- Highly qualified teachers in all classes
- College in Six program for all 6<sup>th</sup> graders, College visit, then college fair
- No permanent tracking of students, Students are free to select the combination of challenging courses that best match their ability and potential
- Special Olympic athletes are supported by the students. Students are selected to be buddies to the athletes. The day of the event, the school fills the hallways to cheer for the students as they exit the building and load the buses
- Fully developed literacy plan meets all students needs

## **Organizational Structures and processes**

- Partnership with Radford University: College in Six program
- TTAC with VA Tech: ongoing professional development to assist with meeting the needs of SPED students
- Roanoke County Strategic Plan outlines the county vision and expectations- WBMS's goals align with this plan
- William Byrd Middle School prepares students to be critical thinkers, with creative minds. Students should be good communicators and able to collaborate with others.
- Data meetings are held bimonthly with individual teachers with their grade level evaluators
- Lesson plans are submitted through google drive weekly
- Retirees are made available to help with remediation
- In County personnel help with professional development
- Leadership team is comprised of department chairs, the instructional coach, guidance coordinator, and administration
- Our School improvement plan is a living document that is continuously reviewed and revised
- Building is clean and inviting