



# NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOLS TO WATCH MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE

## Crestdale Middle School



### Designated in 2009

- Crestdale Middle School • Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
- Mecklenburg County • North Carolina • Rhonda Houston, Principal • 940 Sam Newell Rd., Matthews, NC 28105 • Phone (980) 343-5755
- E-mail [rhonda.houston@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:rhonda.houston@cms.k12.nc.us)
- Web Site <http://pages.cms.k12.nc.us/crestdale/>

## 2009-10 School Statistics

(Source: 2009 NC School Report Card.)

Community: Suburban  
Enrollment: 976  
Grade Levels: 6-8  
School Schedule: Traditional

### Student Demographics

71% White  
19% African American  
5% Hispanic  
5% Asian

21% Free/Reduced Lunch  
3% English Learners

2007 AYP: School of Distinction

Met 26 of 27 performance targets

2008 AYP: High Growth, School of Distinction

Met 31 of 33 performance targets

2006 AYP: Expected Growth, School of Distinction

Met 33 of 33 performance targets

(Visit <http://www.ncreportcards.org> to view this school's data for prior years.)

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Crestdale Middle School is located in a "bedroom community" east of Charlotte in the Matthews area. They have demonstrated tremendous academic success. The faculty and students are justly proud of their accomplishments. Crestdale has been recognized as a School of Excellence or School of Distinction every year. They have not met AYP each year, but do have plans in place to address those areas where AYP is not being met. Those plans are paying off.

### Academic Excellence

- Objectives posted everywhere in all classrooms.
- Curricular planning was aligned (ie. each 7<sup>th</sup> grade Science class was completing the same activity – however, students were challenged appropriately and differentiation was evident).

(Continued)

### **Academic Excellence *(continued)***

- Various teaching/assessment strategies are used on a regular basis and include Fish Bowl Debate, Charts, Oral Presentations, Role Play, Partners, Posters, and others.
- Academic Enrichment Class Period (REACH, AVID, lots of enrichment) ensure that students are both remediated and accelerated.
- After-school Tutoring program is very effective.

### **Developmental Responsiveness**

- Students are happy, excited to be at Crestdale, and proud of the activities available to them.
- Numerous support Services are available: Two assistant principals, three counselors, a dean of students, academic facilitator, part-time school nurse, SRO and two security officers.
- Elective Offerings include: Dance, Drama, Orchestra, Band, Art, French and Spanish. Students have complete choice in their elective schedule.
- There is a very active PTA. They are involved in the day-to-day operation of the school.
- The school has developed university connections with Wingate and UNC-Charlotte.
- Community Connections include business partners, Matthews Optimist Club, Nursing Home, and their fund raising is well organized and popular.

### **Social Equity**

- High expectations for all students are very visible.
- Special education students were observed participating in “hands-on” science experiments, practicing French, and completing Pre-Algebra assignments. The culture of the school is such that all students have access to challenging and engaging educational experiences.
- The Crestdale Academic Enrichment Periods are well-designed and utilized.
- Honor Cards and Activity Periods are enjoyed by students.

### **Organizational Support**

- A shared vision is evident among administration, faculty, staff, and students.
- Resources are devoted to technology, counseling services, and professional development.
- School leadership is not afraid to alter the master schedule and creatively modify classes to meet needs of students: Combining Standard and Standard-Plus Reading & Math.
- Crestdale has addressed its high minority discipline rate and reduced it.