

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT
HERITAGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

The faculty and administration of Heritage Middle School shall strive to meet the needs of our diverse student population. The faculty and administration will review curriculum, test data, academic feedback, etc., to help determine areas of strength and areas of weakness. ISAT, IMAGE, and TERRA NOVA test data will prove beneficial in this endeavor. Our ultimate goal is to prepare the Heritage Middle School student body for high school, college, and life in general as well as to instill a love for learning within each and every student.

According to the 2004 ISAT test results, Heritage Middle School demonstrated growth from the previous year in seventh grade science, eighth grade reading, mathematics, and writing. There was a decrease in seventh grade social science, though the percentage of students meeting and/or exceeding the Illinois Standards was equal to the state level, with 59% of the students meeting and/or exceeding these standards. Seventh grade science, with 76.9%, and eighth grade writing, with 75.5%, had the greatest percentages of our students meeting and/or exceeding the standards. Eighth grade mathematics had the lowest percentage of students meeting and/or exceeding the standards with 42.6%.

Two changes have taken place at the middle school that we hope will ultimately have a positive impact on student academic growth. First, staff members have been assigned to tutoring duties once a week. This allows staff and students to work one-on-one, or in small groups, to help with academic matters. Also, staff members have recently begun meeting on a regular basis by subject areas to discuss curriculum, testing, AYP, academic concerns, the Illinois Standards, etc. The faculty and administration will continue to develop methods to better meet the needs of the students, the school, and the district.

The Heritage staff is pleased with the academic success and growth in the various academic areas, but we recognize that the area of mathematics needs to be addressed and stressed throughout the middle school, more so than the other academic areas. It is our hope that the Exploratory Math Program will help students meet with success within the regular math classroom. We are also exploring ways to increase teacher contact time within the math classes. Two math areas that need addressing include geometric concepts and geometric relationships. The math teachers have developed goals to address both of these areas at all three grade levels. The math teachers will continue to meet, discuss, and monitor the academic growth and success of our students.

Goals have also been established in the areas of language arts/literature, science, and social studies to further assure academic growth and success. The areas of fine arts and physical development/health will also be monitored throughout the school year to assure that the needs of the students are being met. The Heritage Middle School faculty and administration will continually address the percentage of students not meeting the Illinois Standards in an effort to provide the best education possible for all middle school students.

