

Hawk's Eye View
March 2015

Snow, snow days and more snow! It's been a cold winter, but achievement is still hot at West Middle.



It's official. West Middle Community School is the highest performing non-magnet district school in the city, confirmed in a report released this January by Achieve Hartford. Our school's best practices have no doubt contributed to its significant academic gains. In particular, West Middle students benefit from Strategic Instruction. This is a teaching approach through which all students receive targeted instruction that is customized to their unique learning needs for a dedicated 50 to 60 minute block every day. Strategic Instruction effectively provides a continuum of services, ranging from remediation through enrichment.

Grades 4 through 8 have been receiving Strategic Instruction at West Middle for the last four years, and this year the practice is being extended to the lower elementary grades as well. In the middle grades that have benefitted from Strategic Instruction for longer, student performance is considerably higher than the school average, putting West Middle even closer academically to magnet and other choice school levels.

As always, the Boys and Girls Club of Hartford continues to enhance West Middle's engagement of its students and their families through dynamic in and out-of-school programming and enrichment. This month's highlights abound. On the school's Bushnell Family Ice Skating Trip, sixty-eight West Middle students and parents came out to skate together at Bushnell Park on a chilly January day. For National Pie Day, students in the after-school program sampled different pies and applied science and math in the most delicious way by graphing their taste test results. At the Valentine's Day Family Party on site at the school, students and families played games, enjoyed snacks, took pictures in our photo booth, made cards, and got their faces painted. Way to embrace the winter season!

With its solid academic performance and free extended day program, West Middle is proud to provide a quality K-8 educational option right in the neighborhood for Asylum Hill and Zone 1 families. What's more, in less than a year from now we will take up residence in our state of the art facility, currently under construction at the school's home site in the heart of Asylum Hill. We welcome new enrollees year round. Hartford families can also choose West Middle Community School through the Hartford District Choice Lottery. Check us out!

Contact the school to reach our leaders, including Principal Lynn Estey, School Governance Council Chairperson Dyshann Anderson, PTO President Tiffany Glanville, and Community School Coordinator Joe Bumpers.

West Middle Community School

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