

**PROFILE: Westwood Middle School**

- *Principal's message, school highlights, demographics*
- *School purpose, vision, priorities*
- *Easy-to-Read Summary of data, test results*



# Westwood Middle School

711 91st Avenue NE  
Blaine, MN 55434  
763-786-7815

[SpringLakeParkSchools.org](http://SpringLakeParkSchools.org)



# PROFILE WESTWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



## Message from the principal

I am proud to say that we are an outstanding school that is committed to providing a high quality education for each student. Through our high-quality embedded, professional development, our staff are continual learners with the goal of providing a world-class education for our students.

We are in a continual process of learning and improvement to fulfill the Purpose of our District and serve the needs of our learners.

When you come to Westwood Middle School, you will feel the dedication and commitment of the staff and the desire of our students to be the very best that they can be.

Together we are poised to achieve at ever higher levels!

### Principal

Paula Hoff

### Westwood Middle School

701 91st Avenue NE  
Blaine, Minnesota 55434

763-784-8625

### Enrollment

941 students

### School Hours

9:20 am – 3:40 pm

### Office Hours

8:00 am – 4:00 pm

### Website

[Springlakeparkschools.org](http://Springlakeparkschools.org)

## School demographics

- Percent of students eligible for free or reduced lunch 32%
- Percent of students receiving special services
  - Special Education 17%
  - English as a Second Language 8%
  - Gifted/Talented: 13%
- Diversity of student population (by percent)
  - Native American: 2%
  - Asian: 10%
  - Hispanic: 8%
  - Black: 10%
  - White: 70%



## School highlights

We are proud to provide:

- **Team-based learning environment** Students are assigned to a teaching team where a core group of teachers work with a consistent group of students to enhance supportive communication regarding the success of the child.
- **Literacy-based learning across the curriculum** Teachers have received extensive training and are implementing instructional practices to help students effectively read texts of all kinds.
- **Personalized instruction** Teachers have received training and will continue to focus on this area of professional learning this academic year, in ways to adjust instruction to meet the current, demonstrated needs of learners
- **Honors classes in core disciplines** Students who have demonstrated proficiency in core classes, have exemplary standardized test scores or have strong recommendations from their teachers, have an opportunity to experience increased rigor in core classes
- **Exploratory classes** Students are exposed to an array of classes in the arts
- **After-school activities and sports** A wide range of after school activities are available for 6-8 grades while 7-8 graders can participate in up to 3 sports per year
- **Supportive and nurturing learning environment** – Teachers strive to further develop their connections with their students in order to provide a personalized learning environment
- **Co-teaching teams** Two licensed teachers work with a group of students to provide . . .
- **Student Ambassadors/Student Council** – Student leadership opportunities for students at Westwood Middle School either by election or staff recommendation or student self-expressed interest

# PROFILE WESTWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



## School Purpose

High expectations,  
High achievement  
For all.

No excuses.



## School priorities

### Professional Learning Community

*Learning communities meet on a regular basis to deepen participants understanding for the purposes of learning, joint lesson planning and problem solving. These teams operate with a commitment to the norms of continuous improvement and experimentation and engage their members in improving their daily work to improve student achievement.*

*This year our learning community priorities are:*

#### ● Personalization

We will provide a quality rigorous and appropriate education for all students in order to prepare them to be successful contributing members of a global society. Teachers will use assessment data to provide instruction that meets the students' demonstrated needs.

#### ● System of Interventions

A formalized problem solving model will be used to help provide individualized learning interventions and support

#### ● Literacy

Content area reading strategies and 6+1 Traits of Writing are used across all areas of the curriculum to enhance constructed response

*Priorities were identified through ongoing review of school and student data and alignment with district strategic directions. To view the data, visit the School Information Report found on the Westwood Middle School or Accountability home pages.*



## School vision

How we want people to describe our school in the future

We are a school where:

- All students thrive in a positive, supportive learning community focused on helping each student achieve their personal best - - socially, emotionally and academically
- All individuals demonstrate a culture of respect and personal responsibility
- All students are actively engaged in personalized and rigorous learning in flexible and individualized classrooms

# PROFILE WESTWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL SPRING LAKE PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Our district success system defines indicators of success within each of four strategic areas. At the core of our success system is the area of *Improving Student Learning and Development*. Regular review of our results across this success system results in the identification of improvement projects that will directly or indirectly improve student learning results by building on successes and addressing areas of needed improvement.

## Areas of our Success System

- Core: Improving Student Learning and Development
- Effective operations, processes, and stewardship of resources
- Family and community connections and partnerships
- Professional Learning Community

## Easy-to-Read Executive Summary of data, test results

### Improving student learning and development

#### Accomplishments

- Exceeded National standards on 8<sup>th</sup> Grade EXPLORE math test
- Targeted Services classes meet two days a week after school to provide additional help for our students
- Peer tutoring is provided two days a week after school
- Math team achieved 4<sup>th</sup> place standing in local and national competition. One student achieved both 1<sup>st</sup> in the local and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the national competition.
- Weekly professional learning meetings occur within the school day to collaboratively focus on improving student learning
- Core teams meet weekly to discuss students who need additional interventions
- Weekly professional meetings to further learning and implementation of personalization strategies
- Instructional coach works with all staff to improve assessment for learning practices
- Co-teaching teams collaborate to provide instruction to meet the individual needs of students
- All 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades receive a trimester in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning experiences in their technology class
- Instructional decisions are data-driven
- Developmentally appropriate behavioral philosophy

#### Challenges

- Improve school-wide results in the area of written response in all content areas
- Reduce the performance gap between students of various ethnic, racial, and socio-economic groups
- Increase extra-curricular opportunities for more students

### Effective operations, processes, and stewardship of resources

#### Accomplishments

- Major renovation and expansion of our school is nearly completed
- Learning/Equity Team meets each month
- Monthly meeting with department chairs to address building operational needs
- Task forces are developed as needed to address specific needs in our school. Guidance is provided through structured meeting protocols and expectations.

#### Projects

- Professional learning regarding implementation of a block schedule model for the 2009-10 school year

### Professional learning community: curriculum, instruction, staff learning, student support

#### Accomplishments

- All staff have been trained in "literacy in the content area" strategies to improve academic achievement
- All staff are engaged in learning to enhance personalization through "Effective Instructional Strategies for the Block Schedule"
- All faculty meetings are centered around professional learning
- Math teachers are working with a state math grant project to successfully prepare our students for Algebra in 8<sup>th</sup> grade

#### Challenges

- Increase expectation of rigor across all content areas and programs

#### Priorities & Projects

- Staff have access to a resident expert regarding differentiation and personalization
- Rewrite the Pride curriculum

- Staff will be trained in 6+1 Traits of Writing to promote consistent writing throughout the academic day
- All mathematic staff are engaged in learning to support Algebra in the middle school

## **Family and community communications and partnerships**

### **Accomplishments**

- Effective electronic communication

### **Challenges**

- Providing access to our resources to the community
- Increasing effective communication with families who have limited access

### **Priorities & Projects**

- Review and improve parent newsletter
- Enhancing available electronic communication between the school and home
- Examine secondary report card

