

STRATEGIC SCHOOL PROFILE 2009-10

Middle and Junior High School Edition

Teachers' Memorial Middle School**Norwich School District**

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Location: 15 Teachers Drive
 Norwich,
 Connecticut

This profile was produced by the Connecticut State Department of Education in accordance with CT General Statutes 10-220(c) using data and narratives provided by the school district or testing services. Profiles and additional education data, including longitudinal data, are available on the internet at www.sde.ct.gov.

TYPE OF SCHOOL

School Type: Traditional/Regular Education
 School Grade Range: 6 - 8

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Enrollment on October 1, 2009: 520
 5-Year Enrollment Change: -3.3%

INDICATORS OF EDUCATIONAL NEED

Need Indicator	Number in School	Percent in School	Middle/Jr. High Schools	
			% in District	% in State
Students Eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Meals	334	64.2	63.7	27.1
Students Who Are Not Fluent in English	58	11.2	10.1	3.7
Students with Disabilities	90	17.3	14.2	11.7
Students Identified as Gifted and/or Talented	0	0.0	0.0	7.8
Students in Grades Above School's Entry Grade Who Attended Same School the Previous Year	291	85.3	87.7	93.7

PROGRAM AND INSTRUCTION

Instructional Time	School	State Middle/Jr. High Schools
Total Days per Year	181	181
Total Hours per Year	1,038	1,018

State law requires that at least 180 days of school be offered to students in kindergarten through Grade 12, 900 hours of instruction to Grades 1-12 and full-day kindergarten, and 450 hours to half-day kindergarten students.

Average Class Size	School	District	State	Enrollment in Selected High School Level Courses			
Grade 5	N/A	N/A	N/A	Percent of Grade 8 Students Taking	School	District	State
Grade 7	20.3	17.1	20.8	Mathematics	0.0	0.0	37.8
				World Language	0.0	0.0	48.6

Required Hours of Instruction Per Year in Selected Subject Areas		
Grade 8	School	State
Art **	27	36
Computer Education **	27	20
English Language Arts **	366	236
Family and Consumer Science	0	9
Health **	27	25
Library Media Skills	0	10
Mathematics **	136	152
Music **	27	35
Physical Education **	72	58
Science **	136	145
Social Studies **	136	142
Technology Education	0	26
World Languages **	72	89

World Language

Formal instruction (at least 1 hour per week) in French and Spanish starts in Grade 6 in this school. Statewide, 13.3% of elementary and middle schools that serve Grade 6 start world language instruction by this grade.

Lunch

An average of 30 minutes is provided for lunch during full school days.

** Interdisciplinary approach

Special Programs	School	Middle/Jr. High Schools	
		District	State
% of K-12 Students in Bilingual Education Program or Receiving English as a Second Language Services	10.4	9.6	3.6
% of Identified Gifted and/or Talented Students Who Received Services	N/A	N/A	N/A
% of Special Education Students Attending This School Who Spent Over 79% of Their Time with Their Non-Disabled Peers	43.3	39.6	77.9

LIBRARY AND COMPUTERS

Free on-line access to periodicals, newspapers, and other resources is available to all schools through the Connecticut Digital Library at www.iconn.org.

Instructional Computers and Library Materials	School	Middle/Jr. High Schools	
		District	State
# of Students Per Computer	2.8	2.6	2.5
% of Computers with Internet Access	100.0	100.0	98.4
% of Computers that are High or Moderate Power	31.7	28.3	95.4
# of Print Volumes Per Student*	29.7	22.6	21.3
# of Print Periodical Subscriptions	11	13	27

*Because a certain number of volumes are needed for a library of adequate breadth and depth, a small school may need a higher number of volumes per student.

SCHOOL STAFF

Full-Time Equivalent Count of School Staff	
General Education: Teachers and Instructors	34.50
Paraprofessional Instructional Assistants	3.00
Special Education: Teachers and Instructors	5.00
Paraprofessional Instructional Assistants	7.00
Library/Media Specialists and/or Assistants	1.00
Administrators, Coordinators, and Department Chairs	2.00
Instructional Specialists Who Support Teachers (e.g., subject area specialists)	1.00
Counselors, Social Workers, and School Psychologists	3.25
School Nurses	1.50
Other Staff Providing Non-Instructional Services and Support	11.70

In the full-time equivalent count, staff members working part-time in the school are counted as a fraction of full-time. For example, a teacher who works half-time in a school contributes 0.50 to the school's staff count.

Teachers and Instructors	School	Middle/Jr. High Schools	
		District	State
Average Number of Years of Experience in Education	14.1	14.0	14.1
% with Master's Degree or Above	75.6	81.3	77.4
Classroom Teacher Attendance, 2008-09: Average # of Days Absent Due to Illness or Personal Time	4.6	5.8	9.0
% Assigned to Same School the Previous Year	87.8	89.1	89.8

HOME AND SCHOOL COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Teacher E-Mail Addresses: All teachers at this school have been issued e-mail addresses.

Online Homework Information: A portion of the school's website is devoted to homework pages.

The following narrative about how this school promotes and supports parental involvement was submitted by this school.

At Teachers' Memorial, we are committed to successful and frequent communication with our parents. Each year three progress reports on all students and three Report Cards are mailed home to families. We hold an annual Open House and an annual orientation for our 5th grade parents to ease the transition to middle school. We also conduct an annual High School Night for our 8th grade parents to ease the transition to high school. We have formal parent conferences twice a year and any parent may come to school by appointment and meet with their child's teachers during a team time period any day. We have a large population of ELL students and are the bi-lingual middle school center for the district. We are sensitive to the needs of these parents and translate home/ school communications into the appropriate language. We are a Title I school and offer an annual parent meeting related to our commitment to Title I programs. Our Parent Teacher Organization meets monthly to provide an additional opportunity for parental involvement in our schools. Our parents are encouraged to attend and participate in our many after school student activities such as dances and athletic events.

SCHOOL DIVERSITY

Student Race/Ethnicity		
Race/Ethnicity	Number	Percent
American Indian	18	3.5
Asian American	70	13.5
Black	119	22.9
Hispanic	108	20.8
White	205	39.4
Total Minority	315	60.6

Percent of Minority Professional Staff: 2.0%

Non-English Home Language:

26.7% of this school's students (excluding prekindergarten students) come from homes where English is not the primary language. The number of non-English home languages is 16.

EFFORTS TO REDUCE RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND ECONOMIC ISOLATION

Below is the description submitted by this school of how it provides educational opportunities for its students to interact with students and teachers from diverse racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds.

Teachers' Memorial is an ethnically diverse middle school located in the small city of Norwich, Connecticut. In our efforts to expose our students to a variety of cultures and communities, we are continually exploring programs and enrichments that lend themselves to diversity. These efforts may deal with ethnicity, cultural exchange and intergenerational programs. Approximately 25 of our students participate in a mentor program which uses adults of diversity as role models for our students. Our science classes are invited to the Pfizer "SamJam" which is a yearly science festival attended by many of the middle schools in southeastern Connecticut. This program is available to our eighth graders, approximately 180 students. Many of the students who attend are from the more affluent and less diverse suburban communities. Our students also participate in multicultural programs at the Garde Theatre in New London. The "peace pole initiative" is based on the school's diversity. At the last program 23 different languages were represented at the celebration. The Three Rivers Connection initiative in conjunction with the Bozrah schools also provides a multi-racial component. This grant will expand to include a multitude of technology for our students. An after school Diversity Club and a summer Cultural and Diversity program also add to our school climate. We have been pleased and successful in our efforts toward racial, ethnic and economic diversity and we will look for similar opportunities in the future.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE AND BEHAVIOR

Physical Fitness: % Reaching Health Standard on All Four Tests*	School	District	State	% of Schools in State with Equal or Lower Percent Reaching Standard
Grade 4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Grade 6	33.5	29.9	51.4	23.2
Grade 8	39.5	40.9	50.6	36.6

*Includes tests for flexibility, abdominal strength and endurance, upper-body strength and aerobic endurance.

Connecticut Mastery Test, Fourth Generation, % Goal. The Goal level is more demanding than the Proficient level, but not as high as the Advanced level, reported in the No Child Left Behind Report Cards.

Grade and CMT Subject Area	School	District	State	% of Schools in State with Equal or Lower Percent Meeting Goal
Grade 4 Reading	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Writing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mathematics	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Grade 5 Reading	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Writing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mathematics	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Science	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Grade 6 Reading	57.0	57.1	74.9	23.3
Writing	47.0	50.3	65.9	25.9
Mathematics	47.2	42.3	70.7	22.1
Grade 7 Reading	59.2	61.5	77.4	24.8
Writing	32.1	36.8	61.2	23.7
Mathematics	43.3	45.5	68.5	23.3
Grade 8 Reading	51.5	55.4	73.3	23.4
Writing	43.1	41.1	62.6	30.1
Mathematics	49.1	46.7	67.3	28.6
Science	46.3	44.7	62.8	32.3

These results reflect the performance of students with scoreable tests who were enrolled in the district at the time of testing, regardless of the length of time they were enrolled in the district. Results for fewer than 20 students are not presented.

For more detailed CMT results, go to www.ctreports.com.

To see the NCLB Report Card for this school, go to www.sde.ct.gov and click on "No Child Left Behind."

Student Attendance	School	District Middle/Jr. High Schools	State Middle/Jr. High Schools
% Present on October 1	96.9	97.2	96.7

Disciplinary Offenses

Disciplinary offenses committed by students include all serious offenses, offenses involving drugs, alcohol, or tobacco, and all incidents resulting in suspension or expulsion. In the 2008-09 school year, 96 students were responsible for these incidents. These students represent 19.6% of the estimated number of students who attended this school at some point during the 2008-09 school year.

Number of Incidents by Disciplinary Offense Category, 2008-09		
Offense Category	Location of Incident	
	School	Other Location
Violent Crimes Against Persons	0	0
Sexually Related Behavior	6	0
Personally Threatening Behavior	48	0
Theft	6	0
Physical/Verbal Confrontation	0	0
Fighting/Battery	52	1
Property Damage	5	0
Weapons	2	0
Drugs/Alcohol/Tobacco	0	0
School Policy Violations	93	3
Total	212	4

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS AND ACTIVITIES

The following narrative was submitted by this school.

The arrival of the CMT results will be used to evaluate progress, collect and assess student placement in the 2010-2011 schedule. A school wide enrichment block will aid in providing additional instruction specifically directed at CMT improvement. In addition, all students will participate in a support block every other day. We have a comprehensive school improvement plan that will address the components of the CMT results. Although we will address Reading and Math instruction, our emphasis will be to continue to improve reading among our students. The plan will analyze test scores, reflect on instruction and allow our Data teams to provide intense professional development for the team members as well as the faculty in general. We will receive assistance from our local RESC as well as the CSDE. Teachers' Memorial has a School Data Team that analyzes test scores, local assessments and makes adjustments to curriculum delivery, master schedules and teacher assignments. This team meets regularly and is in contact with the Superintendent of schools and the district curriculum director. Our school is divided into teaching teams who meet regularly as a team or as a department and discuss student progress, assessment and development. In addition these meetings entail curriculum discussion and special education issues. Our positive school climate has produced data indicating a large reduction in office referrals and in and out of school suspensions.

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

The space below was optionally used by this school to describe aspects of the school not presented elsewhere in the profile.

Teachers' Memorial Middle School is located in Norwich, Connecticut. We have a student body comprised of 6th, 7th and 8th graders divided into teams of approximately 90 students each. Each student receives a core curriculum of Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Special subjects are also offered to our students. Our school participates in the Positive Behavior Support initiative under the direction of Dr. Sugai at the University of Connecticut. Numerous award programs such as Academic Breakfasts are an integral part of the school. Teachers' Memorial has an enrichment program that includes but is not limited to Language Arts and Science Olympiads, the National Geography Bee, the Stock Market Game, cultural fairs and events and Middle School and Technology Fairs. We also receive grant funding from the Pfizer Corporation. We have a mentor program for our students determined to express a need for such an initiative. Our SCORE program has allowed our school to address the concerns of the Carnegie Foundation. We provide many and varied programs for our students at times when school is not in session. A School Data Team comprised of the Principal, teachers, a Board of Education member, and a parent meets monthly to establish goals, analyze performance and other student data, and discuss and realign curriculum. Through a grant our students participate in the Thames River Connections initiative supervised by the science department. Through various grant funding, we are able to supplement our students' school day with a variety of after school programs.
