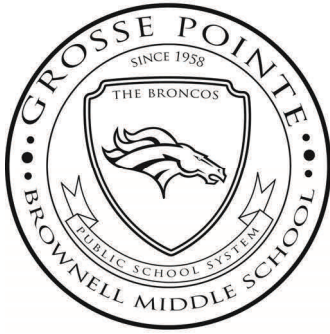




Mission Statement

The mission of the Brownell Middle School is to provide educational challenge and rigor for all students each and every day.

Attendance Rate:

97%

Nondiscrimination Statement

The Grosse Pointe Public School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Stefanie Hayes,
Director of Student Services
20090 Morningside
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI
48236
Phone: (313) 432-3851
Stefanie.Hayes@gpschools.org

If the individual filing the grievance alleges that the Section 504/ADA coordinator has engaged in discrimination, then the individual filing the grievance must provide the documentation to the:
Deputy Superintendent for Educational Services
389 St. Clair
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230
Phone: (313) 432-3016

For further information on nondiscrimination, visit:
<http://wdcrobc01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm>
for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481.

GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Promote Innovation → Maximize Potential → Embrace Community

Brownell 2016-17 Annual Report



Introduction

The 608 students at Brownell Middle School completed a successful 2016-2017 school year as evidenced by the many accomplishments listed below. Brownell's 2017 *Niche rank of #2 Best Public Middle Schools in Michigan is the result of a collaborative, compassionate, diligent, innovative, and inclusive learning atmosphere that is embraced by students, staff, parents, and community.* In all three grade levels students were recognized for outstanding achievement in academics and citizenship. Students participated in many academic contests, including: Letters About Literature, America and Me Essay Contest, Social Studies Geography Bee, You Be the Chemist, Daughters of the American Revolution Essay, State and National Scholastic Art Awards, and Michigan Interscholastic Press Association Awards. Band, orchestra, and vocal music students earned superior ratings at local, state, and national adjudicated music competitions. This year the eighth grade choir was selected by the American Choral Directors Association to perform at their annual conference at Western Michigan University. Three students placed first in the Math Rally competition at the 41st Annual Detroit Country Day Invitational in February. The eighth grade had 26 students earn a Gold Level Fitness Award and 38 others the Blue Fitness Award. A sixth grade student earned an out-of-state trip to compete in the MathCon competition. Two art students earned Scholastic National Gold Key Art Awards. A group of Broadcast Journalism students created, produced, and promoted a weekly sports show that interviewed local professional hockey players and gained recognition on a local television network.

Our PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support) Program is titled "Buck-Up-Broncos," named after our school mascot, and it focuses on four horseshoes of success: Respect, Responsibility, Compassion, and Positive Decision Making. Students are expected to be upstanders, not bystanders. PBIS expectations can be found in every student's personal planner. Use of Advisory (homeroom) class time, weekly all school assemblies, and monthly grade level meetings provide opportunities to introduce, reinforce, and celebrate the program. For example, during March, Brownell students celebrated being kind to one another. The school wide initiative, titled March Kindness, involved activities such as: learning about the power of words, posting anonymous messages on a kindness wall, wearing pink on Wednesday, and entering a thirty-second YouTube video on kindness competition.

Forty-four eighth grade students participated in the WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) Program dedicated to assisting and mentoring sixth graders throughout their transitional middle school year. In August, WEB Leaders worked with incoming sixth grade students and their parents at registration by answering questions, leading tours, and conducting an orientation program. For the remainder of the school year, WEB Leaders created lessons, games, and activities in an effort to build upon the relationships established with their designated group of mentees at the start of the school year.

Brownell Middle School has several student service organizations and encourages everyone to participate in passion projects. The Student Council created a Kindness Wall, promoted school-wide student and staff participatory events, and organizes the Variety Show held on the last day of school. Our STAND (Students Taking A New Direction) organization sponsored several activities and charitable fundraisers such as the

Assignment of Studies

The Board has determined attendance areas and students shall be expected to attend school within that area. A parent may request a transfer or appeal a placement decision on behalf of their student.

The principal shall be responsible for assigning students to classes. In the elementary schools, the principal, in determining the grade level for any new student, may take into consideration the previous schooling of the student but may assign the student to a lower grade level or higher grade level, if in the principal's judgment such an assignment would be in the best interest of the student. In middle school and high school, students will be assigned to counselors, classes, and instructors by the building principal.

The district also has in place policies and guidelines which guide promotion and retention.

Percentage of Parents Participating in Parent-Teacher Conferences:

2016-17

98% (596 students)

2015-16

86% (581 students)

FERPA Notice

The Grosse Pointe Public School System may, upon request, release the following directory information: student name, grade level, graduation date, height and weight if an athlete, participation in school activities, honors and awards, photographs and videos of students in school activities, and student name, addresses and telephone numbers when requested by military recruiters. GPPSS also publishes student information via school sponsored or school-related media, including activities of the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education. Parents or students, 18 years or older, who do not wish this information made public should click the FERPA directory information button during K-12 online registration.

Introduction, continued

tobacco awareness program titled Kick-Butts, the Go Green - Reuse and Recycle Program, and the STAND4Syria Fund. All members of the NJHS (National Junior Honors Society) are expected to complete community service hours. On their own, many students conduct passion projects to assist our community. For example, a group of three young ladies raised money for the Wigs4Kids program and were honored by the GPFPE (Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education) with a grant to conduct their next philanthropic mission during the 2017/18 school year.

Staff members at Brownell were also recognized for their effort, hard work, and dedication to the academic, social, and emotional success of students. A former student attending a local private high school honored an educator by nominating them for the "Favorite Teacher Award" in October. The *Grosse Pointe News* published in November and May two Brownell educators as the "Teacher of the Week." As a group in 2017 Niche ranked Brownell as the #1 Middle School with the Best Teachers in Michigan.

A wide variety of extracurricular activities (such as basketball, volleyball, track, swimming, wrestling, Yearbook Club, Jazz Band, Drama Production, Art Club, Fashion Club, Book Club, Robotics, Peer-to-Peer Program, and Debate Club) provide opportunities for students to explore many areas of interest. Eighth grade students have the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C. In addition, the choir and instrumental students attended adjudicated music competitions both in state and in Chicago. After regular school hours, Brownell teachers and high school tutors work with students three days a week in Study Club.

Brownell students and staff are supported by the GPFPE and a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) that donate their time, services, and financial assistance by supplementing both curricular and extracurricular opportunities in the form of: activities such as sixth grade fun night, seventh grade Greek Day, and the eighth grade promotion party; grants to purchase a 3D copier for Art class, cooking supplies for Foods Class, sewing machines for Life Skills class, computer software license renewal for Science classes, a baritone saxophone for instrumental music, and professional development for staff.

Core Curriculum

The Grosse Pointe Public School System's core curriculum is developed under the auspices of the Educational Programs Leadership Council (EPLC), a group of teachers, parents, students, and administrators who meet monthly. The core curriculum is based upon state standards in all subjects and extends beyond those by incorporating exemplary local and national standards. Reports of the curriculum committees, which are submitted first to the EPLC then to the Board of Education, include recommendations regarding assessment, professional development, integration of technology, and differentiated instruction to accommodate academic diversity, as well as the curriculum itself. The district also offers a wide array of advanced placement and challenging enrichment courses and a comprehensive special education program.

During the 2016-17 school year, EPLC led the curriculum review for English Language Arts, Math, Science, Lifeskills, Drama, Multi-Tiered System of Support, Art, Counseling 6-12, Physical Education/Health K, Inter-Departmental Technology, and TV Production. Teachers doing the review examined assessments, textbook usage, and alignment to Michigan Department of Education requirements. During the 2017-18 school year, the following curricular areas will be in the review process:

- K-12 English Language Arts (Phase 2-construction of goals and objectives)
- K-12 Mathematics (2)
- K-12 Science (2)
- K-12 Art (2)
- Drama (2)
- Lifeskills (2)
- Multi-Tiered System of Support (2)
- PE/Health (2)
- TV Production (2)
- K-12 Performing Arts (Phase 1-study)
- K-12 World Languages (1)

District wide professional development is part of a comprehensive plan that uses teacher choice as well as mandatory training in areas identified by our district professional development team.



Fall Events

September 5, 2017

[First Day of School- Full day for all Students K-12](#)

September 7, 2017

[6:30 PM Brownell Back-to-School Night](#)

September 11, 2017

[7:00 PM Board of Education Regular Meeting](#)

September 15, 2017

[6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Grade 6 Clue Party](#)

September 20, 2017

[Deadline to submit articles for the October newsletter](#)

September 25, 2017

[6:00 PM PTO Meeting/ PA 25 Report](#)

[7:00 PM Board of Education Regular Meeting](#)

September 28, 2017

[6:30 PM Parent Orientation Meeting](#)

September 29, 2017

[1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Fun Run/Walk Fundraiser](#)

October 4, 2017

[Student Count Day](#)

[2:00 PM Principals' Roundtable Meeting](#)

October 6, 2017

[Jersey Day](#)

October 11, 2017

[PSAT Test 8th grade](#)

October 12, 2017

[NJHS Induction 7pm](#)

October 18-20

[Washington, DC Trip](#)

November 12, 2017

[GPPSS Open House 1-3 p.m. in all schools](#)

November 16 & 21

[Parent Teacher Conferences](#)

School Improvement Plan

The continued learning growth of Brownell students from an academic, social, and emotional perspective is dependent upon maintaining structure and focus on unified goals that utilize data to determine success as well as areas in need of support. The yearly review of the school improvement plan establishes this vision.

- **Students will become more proficient in writing achievement across the curriculum.**

- Increase the percentage of students achieving a proficient score on M-STEP English test.
- Increase the percentage of students achieving a satisfactory or above score on the Grosse Pointe Writing assessment.

- **Students will become more proficient in the areas of conceptual and computational math benchmarks.**

- Increase the percentage of students achieving a proficient score on the M-STEP math test.
- On average, students will meet and/or exceed the expected RIT growth from Spring-to-Spring on the NWEA math test.
- Increase the percentage of students who met math benchmarks on the grade 8 PSAT test.

- **Students will become more proficient readers and effectively read and communicate across all fiction, nonfiction, analytical genres, and curriculum content areas.**

- Increase the percentage of students achieving a proficient score on the M-STEP English test.
- On average, students will meet and/or exceed the expected RIT growth from Spring-to-Spring on the NWEA reading test.
- Increase the percentage of students who met reading benchmarks on the grade 8 PSAT test.

- **Students will empower themselves to be accountable for their personal learning and positive behavior through an articulated PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support) Program.**

- Increase the percentage of students who meet and/or follow established PBIS student behavior expectations.



The Brownell School Improvement Plan includes strategies and objectives that are aligned with Common Core and expectations for learning in the 21st Century. Professional Development is an integral component of the ongoing school improvement process.

BROWNELL MICHIGAN STUDENT TEST OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (M-STEP)

M-STEP ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS TEST											
Grade 6 Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY				Grade 7 Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY				Grade 8 Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY			
Year	All	Female	Male	Year	All	Female	Male	Year	All	Female	Male
16-17	84% (44%)	87%	82%	16-17	91% (45%)	97%	86%	16-17	91% (48%)	97%	83%
15-16	85% (45%)	87%	83%	15-16	82% (47%)	94%	67%	15-16	84% (49%)	88%	80%

M-STEP MATHEMATICS TEST											
Grade 6 Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY				Grade 7 Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY				Grade 8 Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY			
Year	All	Female	Male	Year	All	Female	Male	Year	All	Female	Male
16-17	76% (34%)	72%	80%	16-17	86% (36%)	87%	85%	16-17	74% (34%)	79%	68%
15-16	69% (33%)	65%	72%	15-16	75% (35%)	80%	68%	15-16	76% (33%)	78%	74%

M-STEP SCIENCE – Grade 7 Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY			
Year	All	Female	Male
16-17	48% (23%)	45%	50%
15-16	42% (24%)	39%	45%



M-STEP SOCIAL STUDIES Grade 8 Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY			
Year	All	Female	Male
16-17	57% (31%)	53%	63%
15-16	72% (29%)	66%	76%

NOTE: M-STEP Data is not reported by Racial/Ethnic minority group, Special Education, or Economically Disadvantaged because no group is significantly large enough to report M-STEP results without revealing the identity of individual students.

*State of Michigan M-STEP results have been shown above in parenthesis for comparison to school results.

2016-17 M-STEP Percentage of Students Tested								
Grade	ENGLISH	MATH	SCIENCE	Social Studies	Total English with Other Tests	Total Math with Other Tests	Total Science with Other Tests	Total Social Studies with Other Tests
6	99%	99%	Not Tested	Not Tested	99%	99%	Not Tested	Not Tested
7	96%	95%	95%	Not Tested	98%	97%	97%	Not Tested
8	97%	97%	Not Tested	97%	98%	98%	Not Tested	98%

NOTE: Total with Other Tests refers to the percentage tested with either M-STEP or MI-ACCESS (alternative state test) in each area.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (cont.)

GROSSE POINTE WRITING

Percentage of Students Achieving SATISFACTORY									
Year	Grade 6			Grade 7			Grade 8		
	All	F	M	All	F	M	All	F	M
16-17	87%	92%	82%	89%	95%	84%	94%	97%	91%
15-16	76%	85%	68%	84%	92%	75%	97%	100%	94%
14-15	89%	95%	81%	85%	92%	78%	89%	97%	81%

Grade 6-8 — Satisfactory includes scores of 4 through 7

NORTHWEST EVALUATION ASSOCIATION (NWEA)

Average Percentile Achieved by Brownell Students (on National Norms)

Percentile READING Spring					Percentile MATH Spring		
Grade	Year	All	Female	Male	All	Female	Male
6	16-17	74	75	72	73	71	74
	15-16	71	76	68	66	65	67
	14-15	70	72	66	69	69	69
7	16-17	76	78	73	72	72	73
	15-16	73	75	70	71	71	70
	14-15	*	*	*	*	*	*
8	16-17	73	77	68	78	77	79
	15-16	75	79	71	75	76	75
	14-15	*	*	*	*	*	*

NOTE: A percentile is the percentage of students in a national norms group who scored at or below a particular score.

* The number of students tested at these grade levels was too small to report summary data.

