



# GEORGIA LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOLS TO WATCH

## LEE COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL WEST—VISITOR'S GUIDE



**National School to Watch Designation in 2007  
Re-designation in 2010, 2013, 2016 and 2019**

**Lee County Middle School West Campus**

<http://www.lee.k12.ga.us/lcms/index.php>

190 Old Smithville Road

Leesburg, Ga

Phone (229)903-2140 Fax (229)903-2156

**John Savelle, Principal**

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### 2018-2019 School Statistics

Community: Rural

Enrollment: 847

Grade Levels: 6-8

#### Student Demographics

2% Hispanic

69% White

21% African American

4% Asian

4% Other

46% Free and Reduced

#### Faculty and Staff

83 Total Staff members

3 Administrators

1 Media Specialist

2 Counselors

8 Support Personnel

10 Special Education Teachers

49 Certified Teachers

Title I Targeted Assistance School

National BETA School of Distinction

2012 CCRPI Score: 79.8

2013 CCRPI Score: 73.2

2014 CCRPI Score: 81.5

2015 CCRPI Score: 77.3

2016 CCRPI Score: 79.8

2017 CCRPI Score: 80.4

2018 CCRPI Score: 72.4

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

### Academic Excellence

- All staff members at Lee County Middle School West are challenged to grow academically and have high academic standards for themselves.
  - We have 40 certified staff members. Of those, 28 have advanced degrees (2 Doctorates; 14 Specialists; 12 Masters).
  - We have no-conference Tuesdays where teachers are involved in professional development directly related to the school improvement plan.
  - We encourage teachers to be leaders and take on active roles within the school that promote shared leadership.
  - We have a continuous School Improvement Plan that is evaluated and update by the school leadership team on an annual basis. We use 60 Day Action Plans to address each goal on the School Improvement Plan throughout the day.
- All students at Lee County Middle School West are expected to meet high academic standards.
  - We have a rigorous, standards-based curriculum.
  - We heterogeneously group all teams.
  - We offer multiple academic accelerated courses in addition or the regular gifted program.
  - We have a continuum of special education services to target the behavioral and academic needs of our SWD population.
  - We have a detailed RTI process and use specific data to monitor progress of students involved in RTI. Universal screeners are used to monitor progress.
  - We have Extended Learning Time scheduled so teams have the time to remediate and accelerated as needed.
- Instructional strategies used at Lee County Middle School West include a variety of challenging and engaging activities.
  - We have Instructional Level Data Teams that meet regularly to analyze data from Common Formative Assessments in order to identify common errors or trends and discuss instructional strategies to address those in effort to promote student growth.
  - We utilize our system level Instructional Technologists to share effective ways to integrate technology in the classroom. We also have a school-wide BYOT policy.
  - We embrace student-centered classrooms.
- Methods of assessment and monitoring student growth are in place at Lee County Middle School West.
  - We use common formative assessments to determine student growth in each Instructional Level data cycle.
  - We use a variety of formative and summative assessments, and students are encouraged to assess their own performance based on given expectations.

## Developmental Responsiveness

- The staff of Lee County Middle School West strives to make a personalized environment that supports each student's intellectual, ethical, social, and physical development.
  - We have a school-wide positive behavior intervention system.
  - We offer a variety of connections classes including Health, Physical Education, Band, Chorus, Spanish, Family and Consumer Science, Career Discover, Computer Science, Art, and Agriculture.
  - We have two dedicated counselors who help inspire students to become successful adults
  - We have monthly Advisement where we address character education, goal setting, and social development. Counselors also have Classroom Guidance to address these concepts.
  - We have two mentor programs. In one program, adults act as mentors to a student; in the other program, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students act as mentors to a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student.
  - We encouraged students to be involved in school-based decisions and have a Student Advisory Council through our Student Government Association.
  - We have parent/community involvement through our PTO, Partners in Excellence, School Council and Open House days.
- Lee County Middle School West provides age-appropriate, co-curricular activities to foster social skills and character, and to develop interests beyond the classroom.
  - We offer many interscholastic sports. These sports include Swimming, Wrestling, Baseball, Soccer, Track, Golf, Football, Competition Cheer, Softball, Cross Country, Volleyball, Basketball, and Basketball Cheer.
  - We consistently earn superior ratings through our chorus and band programs and annually send student to district honor band and chorus.
  - We have a large variety of Clubs students can be involved in. These clubs include Inner Beauty, Math Counts, Model UN, FFA, Puzzle Club, Sign Language, SGA, Technology, Yearbook, Art Attack, Beta Club, Book Club, Craft Club, FCCLA, FCA, Fitness, FBLA, and Girl Talk.
  - We have an annual Media Festival where students create technology based projects and present them to a panel of judges. Winners move on to regional Media Festival.
  - We have an annual Career Fair where members of the community come to share information about their career of choice.
  - We have a Partners in PE program where student leadership work with students with severe disabilities during their physical education class. Students work on physical and social needs.

## Social Equity

- All students have equal access to valued knowledge in all school classes and activities.
  - We structure our teams to promote equity through examining academic ranking, behavior, and demographics.
  - We use universal screeners to identify possible areas of need and serve students in the best way possible to meet those needs.
  - We have high expectations for achievement for ALL students.
  - We have a school-wide discipline plan, called ROCK. The school rules are clear, fair, and consistently applied.
  - We schedule so that, to the fullest extent possible, students with disabilities are in regular classrooms.
  - We have five computer labs and a netbook cart. All classes have equal availability to these resources.
  - We hold club meetings during school hours to offer opportunities for all students.
  - We provide opportunities for students to enjoy special events such as an annual Veteran's Day program, a talent show, various guest speakers, the Career Fair, etc.

## Organizational Supports

- The principal has the responsibility and authority to hold the school-improvement enterprise together, including day-to-day know-how, coordination, strategic planning, and communication.
  - We have a strong and present administrative staff that has an ultimate goal of supporting the staff.
  - We have a leadership team that represents the full staff.
  - We make sure the assignments for staff are clear and driven by our School Improvement Plan.
- The school staff holds itself accountable for student success,
  - We have a professional development structure that starts with a Needs Assessment, is driven by the School Improvement Plan, and is carried out by the 60 Day Action Plans.
  - We fully implement Instructional Level Data Teams where teachers led the process for analyzing student growth and effectiveness of instructional strategies.
  - We have Subject Level teams where teachers led the process for developing and improving curriculum.
  - We have Interdisciplinary Teams where teachers meet to plan collaborative and create interdisciplinary units of instruction.