

# GEORGIA LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOL TO WATCH UPSON- LEE MIDDLE SCHOOL—VISITOR’S GUIDE

## Upson- Lee Middle School



**Designated in;2005**

**Redesignated: 2008, 2011, 2014, 2017**

Upson-Lee Middle School •  
Thomaston-Upson School District •  
Thomaston • Georgia •  
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## 2018-2019 School Statistics

**Community: Upson County**

**Grade Levels: 6-8**

**School Schedule: 8:00-3:10**

**Student Demographics:911 students**

Hispanic: 5%

White: 54%

African American: 37%

Asian: <1%

American Indian: 0

Multi-race: 4%

Male: 50%

Female: 50%

Free/Reduced Lunch:100% (Community Eligibility Provision)

English Learners: <1%

Gifted: 9%

**2014 CCRPI SCORE: 74.6**

**2015 CCRPI SCORE: 77.8**

**2016 CCRPI SCORE: 76.6**

**2017 CCRPI SCORE: 80.6**

**2018 CCRPI SCORE: 71.9**

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

### Academic Excellence

- Standards-based Instruction delivered using research-based best practices with the support of Instructional Academic Coaches and Instructional Technology Coach
- Differentiated instruction that engages students in active learning and is tailored to individual student needs and learning styles.
- Incorporate literacy instruction and strategies in all contents.
- Extensive use of Thinking Maps for critical thinking processes
- Gifted/Honors resource class in addition to the Cluster Grouping Model with all academic teachers holding gifted endorsements

- Provide Extended Learning Time during regular school day two to three days per week for acceleration, extension, and remediation in addition to Lunch and Learn.
- Content collaboration to develop grade level units and common assessments.
- Data driven instruction and practices monitored through awareness walks and Mastery Connect and weekly Data Team Meetings.
- 1:1 ratio of chromebooks in all classes. Teachers trained and utilizing Google classroom.
- High Impact practices, such as differentiation, assessment for learning, RTI, Higher Order Thinking Skills, and fluid/flexible grouping present throughout the curriculum
- Science, Math, Technology, Engineering project-based learning – Solar Car, Robotics, STEM
- Exceptional student achievement results in regards to closing achievement gaps
- Accelerated classes formed to allow high school credit for 8<sup>th</sup> graders taking Algebra I, 9<sup>th</sup> grade Literature, Physical Science and Basic Agriculture.
- Alternating Block Schedule to allow for 90 minutes of Math and ELA each day.

## **Developmental Responsiveness**

- Teaming model to create small learning communities
- Interdisciplinary approach to reinforce important concepts and address real-world problems
- Connections classes including art, music, band/chorus, multi-media, agricultural science, math and reading strategies.
- ELT classes for gifted and honors students that focus on Math/Science, Literature and Fine Arts
- PBIS- a school wide positive behavior plan that recognizes “Knightly” behavior
- School wide Fight Free Program/Bully Free Program
- Comprehensive Bullying prevention program
- Advisor/Advisee each Monday during ELT
- Celebrations of excellence for academics, attendance, citizenship
- Strategies to promote student responsibility in good citizenship – SMART goals, Agendas/Organizers, Student Leadership Team, Service Clubs, etc.
- Extra-curricular activities (clubs, dances, sports)
- Parent Involvement Coordinator, Parent Mentor, Counselors, Behavior Interventionist, EL Teacher, Nurse

## **Social Equity**

- School wide heterogeneous grouping with differentiated instruction with all students held to high academic standards
- Co-Teachers on each grade level
- Accelerated short-term interventions for students
- Grade-level collaborative planning for all curriculum groups ensures equitable teaching and learning opportunities
- Love and Logic, Understanding poverty and Mindset training
- School wide community service projects for Empty Stocking Fund and Relay for Lif

## **Georgia Lighthouse Schools to Watch** ***Upson- Lee Middle School***

- Knight Buddies program to support students new to the school
- Student of the Month nominations based on Knightly Behavior
- At-Risk students provided with focus team support (within their team) and RtI
- School/home communication via newsletters, School Reach, school facebook account, e-mail, outside information sign, on-line grade book, team correspondence and meetings, open houses, etc.
- Active PTO, School Council and Partners in Education

### **Organizational Supports**

- 100% highly qualified staff with yearly on-campus professional learning opportunities to further the goals of the school improvement plan as part of a three year professional learning plan
- The principal is the instructional leader, heading a leadership team that is representative of the faculty; the mission of the leadership team is to plan, document and guide school improvement
- Instructional coaching program provided for all core academic subjects in addition to collaboration with colleges, regional agencies, and professional organizations
- A Co-Teacher provides adaptive curriculum and instruction as a instructional strategist assigned to each academic team to support the SWD students
- Common collaborative subject area planning three times per week with monthly vertical planning throughout the year
- Strong inclusion program; 95-100% inclusion for Science. Social Studies and Language Arts classes; 80-85% inclusion for math and literature/reading
- Budget, professional learning, and resources aligned with School Improvement Plan
- Network, online and physical resources are in central locations to foster collaborations
- Timeline, support, and monitoring for implementation of instructional initiatives to foster pervasive, consistent, and effective practices