



SCHOOLS TO WATCH — INDIANA SCHOOLS TO WATCH MODEL SCHOOL — VISITOR'S GUIDE



Lebanon Middle School



Designated in 2014
Re-Designated in 2018

**Lebanon Middle School • Lebanon
School Corporation • Boone County**
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2017-2018 School Statistics

Community: Rural
Enrollment: 805
Grade Levels: 6-8
School Schedule: Hybrid-Block

Student Demographics

- 8.3% Hispanic
- 84.0% White
- 1.9% African American
- 4.6% Multi-racial
- 1.2% Asian
- 41.0% Free/Reduced Lunch

2008-2009 4-Star School
2014 National and State Schools to Watch
2016-2017 DOE – “B” School

ISTEP+ Scores	2014	2015	2016
Math	58.9%	54.0%	60.5%
English/LA	68.7%	68.5%	64.3%
Attendance	95.3%	95.9%	95.8%

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Student data binders detail student test scores on ISTEP, NWEA, subject area scores, and problem solving. These binders are the focal point of student led conferences, which are held in the fall of each school year.
- At LMS, we expect every student to complete every assignment. We use the “ICU” framework to help achieve that goal by provide rewards, incentives and providing additional time as needed.
- Lebanon Middle School offers eighth graders several opportunities to earn high school credit, including; Algebra I, Spanish I, French 1, Introduction to Agriculture, and Geometry.
- Each staff member has a student seminar class where they connect to a smaller group of students to monitor their growth and data throughout the year and serve as a faculty mentor to those students.
- Seminar provides the opportunity for differentiation of activities to meet the variety of needs students have including academic, social emotional, organizational or other needs as they arise.
- Numerous professional development opportunities are provided to teachers to help enhance their knowledge of state standards and curriculum. While professional development opportunities are available outside the school, we reinforce and promote a train the trainer mentality.
- Technology is integrated throughout the school. LMS has infused technology to a capacity of 1 to 1. Each student is issued a computer to use every day throughout the school day. Canvas has been instituted as our learning management system for the school.

- **Special education teachers partner with math, reading, language arts, science, and social studies teachers. They also supply support via math and language arts labs.**
- **Teachers volunteer their time before and after school to work with students that need extra assistance in all subject areas. Teachers also staff an after-school tutoring program on Thursdays with late transportation provided for students.**
- **Multiple assessment tools are used by all teaching staff. In addition, a significant amount of professional development has been dedicated to creating and using common assessments.**
- **LMS operates on a modified block schedule.**

Developmental Responsiveness

- **Lebanon Middle School has long used a teaming structure in all grade levels. The most recent refinement of the teaming structure has divided each grade level team into two smaller teams. All team members have the same group of students, allowing for sharing of ideas and collaborative problem solving around student concerns.**
- **Each student meets with a faculty member during seminar time, a class period during which the teaching staff has the opportunity to interact with that small group of students and work to address the academic and non-academic issues that middle-level students struggle with.**
- **Staff members at Lebanon Middle School are committed to the healthy development of their students. The school has a full time nurse and three physical education teachers. There are two full time guidance counselors, and a school psychologist present in the building. Students identified with more profound social, emotional, and intellectual needs have support, including scheduled resource time, from teachers and counselors specializing in these areas.**
- **LMS teachers understand that middle-level students respond best to a wide range of instructional strategies. Creative delivery of standards-based content is the norm at Lebanon Middle School.**
- **All students have access to current technology and this wide availability of computers creates unique opportunities for “flipped” classrooms: content delivery outside of class, and guided practice during class time, as well as being excellent resources for information gathering and access to the world through blogs, podcasts and face- to- face interactions like Skype.**
- **Seminar teachers are encouraged to develop relationships with their students, so that each student has at least one adult in the school who is knowledgeable about them and has a personal interest in their success.**
- **Teachers are encouraged to develop cross-curricular activities for their students. During team meetings, all teachers who share the same group of students plan assignments with multiple components: content in one area, supplemented by skills in another area.**
- **Using the exploratory concept of middle level education as a basic structure, the LMS course offerings and schedule are built around opportunities for students to discover strengths and interests in their education.**
- **The LMS Student Council and PBIS student groups are the main voices for students. To ensure every student has a voice, Student Council is open to all volunteers, who are able to share their concerns and suggestions to the group. Students problem solve with faculty advisors to address these issues.**
- **LMS parents serve the school in a variety of different capacities from school board members, to coaching, heading various student organizations, supervising the student lounge and PBIS Tiger Store, etc. Parents also serve as active mentors for students, have had representation during textbook adoptions, and act as judges for our annual Science Fair and World’s Fair.**
- **Students at Lebanon Middle School are involved in community, national, and world affairs. Veterans and emergency and safety personnel are celebrated each fall with recognition and special programs.**
- **LMS 8th graders participate in service learning projects throughout the community.**

- **Most students at Lebanon Middle School are involved in some sort of co-curricular activity. Five bands, three choirs, and an annual theatrical performance give students interested in the fine arts many options to explore. Competitive teams in basketball, football, soccer, tennis, swimming, cross-country, track are offered to any student. Students may join service organizations: Builders Club, Hi-Y, and Sunbeam, Junior Honor Society, and Student Council.**

Social Equity

- **The supports offered by LMS are designed to encourage students to grow both academically and socially. To support academic growth teachers and staff routinely adapt their curriculum, instruction, assessment, and scheduling to meet their students' diverse and changing needs.**
- **As an additional support LMS offers weekly afterschool tutoring by licensed, highly qualified teachers for all students as well as transportation for students who stay for tutoring. During our Seminar time, students who are struggling or on the borderline for ISTEP in English/Language Arts and Math are purposefully placed with an English or Math teacher.**
- **Yet another support system available to LMS students is ICU (Intensive Care Unit). ICU is a program implemented to make sure students complete all assignments. During ICU students are given the opportunity to make up any missed assignments from their classes.**
- **LMS teachers use a variety of strategies to differentiate their lessons within their classrooms. Some differentiation occurs as teachers level student groups and tier assignments so that every child in the class is challenged, while other classes are differentiated as teachers have students take tests and quizzes which are modified to meet their ability level.**
- **For those students who have met and exceeded basic proficiency in their classes, LMS offers a selection of opportunities to promote continual growth. LMS boast a robust High Ability program for all core academic subjects in each grade level.**
- **To promote social and emotional growth LMS has a one 90-minute block dedicated to Student Seminar, which is designed to enrich, engage, and support students.**
- **Additionally LMS partners with the Boone County Mentoring Program to support those students who may struggle behaviorally or socially through where they learn coping skills as well as receive mentoring from either a teacher or member of our community, with whom they meet with on a regular basis.**
- **All LMS students have equal access to valued knowledge in all school classes and activities. All Students have a Macbook, which they carry with them to each class during the school day.**
- **While attending LMS students have the opportunity to learn about and appreciate other's culture. Although our school is not very diverse, our students still become aware and at times immersed in other cultures.**
- **Student successes are celebrated on a variety of different levels. Pep sessions are held quarterly to celebrate all the great things going on at LMS including clubs, athletics, and academic achievements.**
- **School rules are clear and consistently followed. All students and parents have access either via the student planner or the school website school rules. Our PBIS student groups suggest activities and motivational programs for students.**

Organizational Support

- **Lebanon Middle School has developed the organizational structures and implemented processes that foster continual growth among staff and students alike. Building-level administrators direct school improvement efforts through ongoing communication and collaborative planning with teacher-leaders including: department heads, team leaders, and individual staff members.**

- Furthermore, LMS leadership encourages life-long learning among the staff through continual improvement. Staff development, professional articles and books, workshops and conferences are regularly utilized to reinforce collaboration in increasing relevant knowledge/skills and challenging outmoded practices.
- Among the focuses for staff development has been a marked increase in the use of data to guide instruction. Data for students is collected through various measures and tracked to ensure student success.
- This collected data along with team discussions is used to inform the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) process from both an academic and behavioral perspective.
- Similarly, LMS provides support for those students who show the potential to be college ready, but need additional support to increase their chances for success in high school and in later post-secondary opportunities.
- In addition to those strategies incorporated throughout the school year, processes have been put in place to help students transition into middle school and beyond. Fall and spring programs assist students in transitioning from the elementary schools to LMS and from LMS to the high school.
- To ensure the accountability of administration and staff, parents and community members are continuously informed of student successes through the school website, monthly newsletters, mybigcampus.com, student-led conferences and Skyward.
- Community partnerships are incredibly valuable within our corporation and building. Fostering these relationships provides immense learning opportunities to our students that can lead to a pathway to their future.
- LCSC holds a New Teacher Boot Camp each year to provide support and guidance to new teachers.
- LCSC initiated a district-wide commitment to the PRIDE Program, which is based on Persistence, Respectfulness, Initiative, Dependability, and Efficiency. The PRIDE Program provides the opportunity for students to earn a PRIDE certification in grades five, eight, and the Senior Work Ethic Certification as a senior.