

NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS TO WATCH GROWING, LEARNING, AND SUCCEEDING! VISITOR'S GUIDE



Belhaven Middle School



2013 School Statistics

Community: Belhaven Middle School is at the heart of the small community of Linwood, a suburban town in Atlantic County, NJ that values its schools and teachers. Our school is within walking distance to all students, and many ride their bikes along the tree-lined bike path each morning and afternoon.

Enrollment: 433

Grade Levels: Grades 5, 6, 7, 8

School Structure: We follow the middle school model of departmentalized instruction. We are proud of our practices in addressing the needs of the whole child: academic, social/emotional and developmental.

Student Demographics:

- 5.6% Hispanic
- 89.3% White
- 3.1% African American
- 6.3% Asian
- 0.3% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- 4.1% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 0% English Learners

(Source: 2013 STW application)

(Visit the New Jersey Department of Education <http://www.state.nj.us/education/> to view this school's assessment data.)

Designated in 2011 Re-designated 2014

★ Belhaven Middle School ★

★ 51 Belhaven Ave. ★

★ Linwood, NJ 08221 ★

★ Atlantic County ★

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www.linwoodschools.org

★ Dr. Frank Rudnesky, Principal ★

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School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence (Some of the Highlights)

- ★ The Belhaven math curriculum emphasizes connections within mathematics to other disciplines, develops concepts through real-world applications, implements the latest technologies, and encourages independent learning.
- ★ We offer an Accelerated math class that begins in sixth grade. These students take a pre-algebra course in 6th grade, Algebra I in 7th grade and Geometry in 8th grade.
- ★ Spanish is taught to all students in grades 5-8.
- ★ All students in grades five through eight meet with the Gifted and Talented teacher in the Related Arts cycle during SPEAK (Students Performing, Experiencing, and Acquiring Knowledge) and benefit from enrichment activities such as digital storytelling, public speaking, Mock Trial, and participation in Belhaven's TV production activities.

- ★ Approximately one-fourth of our students are involved with the Belhaven Instrumental Music program, an elective course at Belhaven. Students attend band practice for 45-minutes four mornings per week before school and receive lessons twice per week during the school day.
- ★ Belhaven Middle school is a “light house,” throughout Southern New Jersey as a model for technology integration and training. Our staff is highly competent in technology integration to reinforce twenty first century teaching and learning.
- ★ All grade level classrooms, and related arts classrooms, are multimedia rooms with an interactive whiteboard, projection and audio system.
- ★ Teachers are highly skilled in differentiating instruction for all students, using benchmarking materials to determine appropriate instructional levels. They spend many hours in the summer planning lessons and projects with their grade level team as well as with their content area colleagues.

Developmental Responsiveness (Some of the Highlights)

- ★ The center of our leadership, service, and character is our award-winning JostensRenaissance process
- ★ The Belhaven Advisory program was created to provide an adult advocate for every student in our school.
- ★ Teams are organized by grade level. With an average of 110 students per grade, teams are the right size for staff to effectively address individual student needs.
- ★ Student & Teacher Assistance Team (STAT) is Belhaven’s creative and action-oriented version of the state required Intervention & Referral Services committee (I&RS) and the Response to Intervention (RTI) initiative. STAT is a student support system that provides teachers with the resources they need to ensure the social, behavioral and academic success of each student attending Belhaven.
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Social Equity (Some of the Highlights)

- ★ “Culture matters” and leadership in our school is embedded in contemporary theory that embraces empowerment and promotes continual student improvement.
- ★ CHAMP Character Has A Million Possibilities resides under our JostensRenaissance process and connects character to the classroom and beyond
- ★ Character and service are infused into the curriculum in all subjects, not just noticeable during the holidays, but year-round. Each year we team up with a local service organization and hold various events throughout the year that benefit the charity and teach our students the value of service.
- ★ Belhaven students begin leadership training from the first day they enter our school. Emphasis is on the fact that leaders do not need to be the loudest person or the most outgoing. Each of us has the potential to lead through positive example.

Organizational Support (Some of the Highlights)

- ★ Classes at Belhaven are designed to offer a mix between core academic classes and exploratory arts classes that address the varied learning styles of young adolescents.
- ★ Belhaven offers thirty-one different clubs and sports throughout the school year. We pride ourselves in providing “something for everyone” and make sure that each student is encouraged to participate in at least one school activity.
- ★ Professional development at Belhaven has evolved into a teacher-led process that is more engaging and collaborative than ever before. Instead of learning from consultants, we learn from one another! We have “teacher experts” that turn-key their knowledge and areas of expertise to others through an on-going, long-term process.