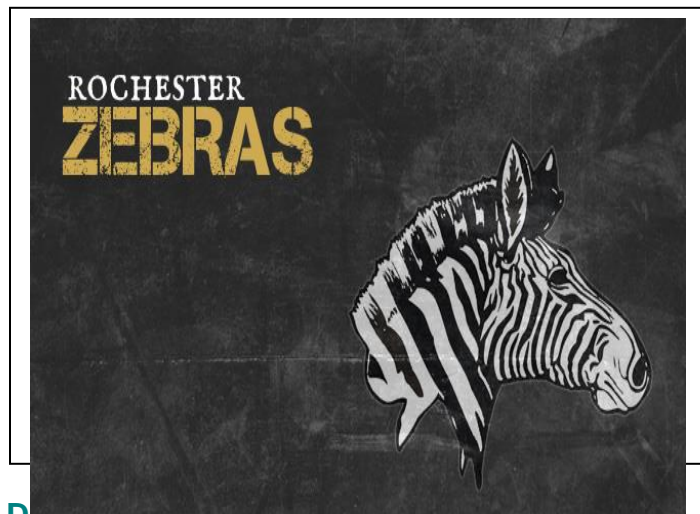




# INDIANA SCHOOLS TO WATCH MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR’S GUIDE

## Rochester Middle School



Designated in 2017

Rochester Middle School • Rochester Community Schools  
Fulton County • Indiana • Principal Oscar Haugh  
650 Zebra Lane • Rochester, IN • 46975  
Phone (574) 223-2280 • Fax (574) 223-1531  
[www.zebras.net](http://www.zebras.net)  
Twitter: @RMSZebras  
Facebook: Rochester Middle School

## School Statistics

Community: Rural  
Enrollment: 422  
Grade Levels: 6-8  
School Schedule: Traditional

Student Demographics  
6% Hispanic  
90% White  
.5% African American  
.8% Native American  
0% Asian  
3% Multiracial

48% Free/Reduced Lunch  
1.5% English Learners

Indiana School Wide Letter Grade History  
2011-2012 B  
2012-2013 B  
2013-2014 B  
2014-2015 B  
2015-2016 C

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

### Academic Excellence

Rochester Middle School continuously strives to achieve high academic standards. It is the goal of RMS to provide rigorous and relevant curriculum to the students, as well as to challenge the students to continue to use the skills taught in the classroom in their everyday lives.

- Students, Parents, and staff use a learning management system, CANVAS, for instant access to agendas, assignments, and grades
- Classroom curriculum maps and pacing guides are current
- Inter-disciplinary instruction involving bell-ringers, and programs such as NewsEla, Criterion, and ReadWorks
- Foreign Language, Algebra, Agriculture, College/Careers, Technology, and Art offered for high school credit
- Instruction based on data from NWEA, CARS, CAMS, SRI, Criterion and other local assessments
- Daily success period offering remediation, study skills, or enrichment based on individual need
- Master schedule allows for all students to take exploratory classes
- Corporation Balanced Calendar utilizing fall and spring break for remediation and enrichment opportunities
- Various academic teams and clubs available to all students
- Weekly professional development due to late start on Wednesday
- Common prep for weekly team meetings with administration built in to the daily schedule

(Continued)

## **Developmental Responsiveness**

**The faculty and staff at Rochester Middle School understand that middle school students are unique and face developmental challenges. We believe it is vital to create an environment that can support each student and their family academically, emotionally, and physically.**

- Every student has a homeroom teacher with whom they meet weekly
- Homeroom class provides lessons on character education and life skills
- Classrooms offer traditional desks, stand up desks, and stability balls in lieu of standard seating
- Parent Center available for free internet use and other beneficial resources
- Weekly Email sent to parents informing of upcoming events
- Parent Fair in lieu of traditional open house, offering a free meal, door prizes, and informational sessions
- Zebra Tails class available for students to learn coping skills, behavior management, and social skills
- 1:1 iPad technology provided for all students
- Active PTO for decision making and fund-raising
- Real life activities, such as Reality Fair, and yearly college visits for all students
- High ability classes and opportunities available
- A variety of extra-curricular activities, sports, and clubs offered for all students

## **Social Equity**

**Social equity is ensuring every student has access to high quality instruction, resources, and academic and behavioral supports. Students at Rochester Middle School are treated in a democratic, fair, and equitable manner.**

- 1:1 iPad technology
- Study tables offered every Tuesday and Thursday after school with teacher supervision and assistance
- Teachers utilize “choice option” projects for students
- PBIS program rewarding positive behavior
- PBIS Letter Lounge for student use
- Parent contact through RMS Letters received as a part of the PBIS program
- Zebra Store available for students as a part of the PBIS initiative
- Zebra Store managed by life-skills students as a part of the curriculum
- Cultural diversity highlighted throughout all grade level curriculum
- SSR offered daily
- Backpack program for specific students providing non-perishable foods for the entire family for the next week
- Free lunches for families throughout our scheduled breaks

## **Organizational Support**

**Administration at Rochester Middle School has created an environment with established structures and procedures that allow for continuous improvement and a common focus. The RMS staff has an initiative centered on Jon Gordon’s book The Energy Bus, focusing on positivity. Each staff member also has chosen one word to concentrate on throughout the year. This common focus at RMS assists in striving toward excellence and continuous improvement.**

- Common staff focus based on positivity using Jon Gordon’s The Energy Bus
- Weekly staff email informing all of upcoming dates, events, and positive thoughts
- Leadership team of administration, guidance counselor, and five teachers collaborate on a weekly basis
- Team concept throughout the building (grade level, department, special needs, success period, office staff)
- Professional development on a weekly basis
- Inter-building partnerships among teachers to align curriculum and collaborate between buildings
- Riddle to Middle program to ease transition to middle school for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders
- Student data available for all teachers
- FAST Friday and Working Lunch to promote continuous accountability for students, parents, and teachers
- Learning tutor from IUK available to assist teachers and students
- High school students utilized for tutoring and teacher assistance as part of an internship process for them
- New teacher orientation and mentor offered as a resource for new staff to the corporation and/or building