

REPORT CARD NARRATIVE

Hatchery Hill School

Built in 1968, Hatchery Hill School, serving students in grades pre-kindergarten through four, is situated in a pleasant residential area on 14.6 acres of land adjacent to the New Jersey State Fish Hatchery. The area is well landscaped with playing fields and new playgrounds.

Hatchery Hill offers a comprehensive educational program. The core curriculum includes instruction in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, health, physical education, Spanish, music, art and technology. Computer labs and a wireless computer cart help to enhance the thematic approach to instruction. SuccessMaker and Waterford software programs help to provide additional practice and assessment opportunities for students. In addition to a full day kindergarten program, student support services include basic skills instruction, speech, guidance, and an Intervention and Referral Services/504 Committee. Hatchery Hill provides full inclusion classrooms for classified students, grades K-4. Additionally, we offer morning and afternoon preschool handicapped classes. Our PM students experience an extended day, partially integrated program with kindergarteners. We also provide Teacher of the Deaf services at our school. Further, instruction is provided for students who are non-English speaking through our E.S.L. Program.

Student progress is communicated through report cards and parent conferences. Student portfolios are utilized to assess individual progress. During the 2010-2011 school year, building objectives were developed to improve students' writing, through "Six Traits of Writing", and also to improve students' technology skills. Improved student achievement was also realized as a result of our TI-GERS afterschool program initiative.

Students have received awards in community, county, and state contests. Individual achievement is acknowledged through participation in the President's Academic Award Program. Awards are also presented yearly by the school and the PTA. Students have the opportunity to participate in various contests through PTA such as the "I Know All 50 Program", a locally developed award-winning program to enhance geography awareness. Our Opera Company encourages students to compose, stage and sing their original opera. Our school also sends student teams to the county-wide Lego and "Battle of the Books" competitions.

Parents participate in decision making through the School Based Planning Team comprised of parents, teachers and the principal. Parents can share fun and learning with their children via programs such as Family Reading, Family Connections and Family ESL. School volunteer programs have been in operation for a number of years. Parent involvement programs at Hatchery Hill have been honored with a "Best Practice" award by the New Jersey State Department of Education, and with statewide recognition from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

More recently, collaboration with Centenary College students, through the "Read Across America" program, provided additional support for Hatchery Hill students.