

Hayden Middle School

Hayden Middle School provides services for approximately 570 students in grades 5-7 and is located on the western border of Blount County in Hayden, Alabama. The small, rural town is comprised primarily of many smaller communities and unincorporated neighborhoods. The middle school serves students from Hayden as well as other surrounding rural areas of West Blount County. The primary goal of the school is to motivate all students to learn and to encourage them to become effective life-long learners.¹

In the 2007-2008 school year, 38% of students were eligible for free or reduced meals. The student to teacher ratio is about 20:1. The student body is mostly White, but with a small minority population.²

In May 2006, HMS was chosen as one of the "Fabulous 14," to participate in the ARI-PAL pilot program. The initiative allowed the school to expand teaching skills across content areas and shift teacher discourse from behavior issues to instructional issues. Professional development programs and strategic teaching methods have become an integral part of forming the Hayden Middle School curriculum.³ In the 2008-2009 School Year, the school embarked on the 'Continuous Improvement Plan,' which used student data to target specific content areas which were lacking compared to other schools in the state. Using strategic teaching methods and individualized instruction the school then set goals to raise proficiency levels, based on their data.⁴

In the 2007-2008 school year, 71% of students in the 8th grade met or exceeded standards in the reading section of the Alabama Reading and Mathematics Test (ARMT), as compared to 78%, 76%, and 68% in the 04-05, 05-06, and 06-07 school years, respectively. In the mathematics section, 57% met or exceeded standards in the 07-08 school year, compared to 73%, 65%, 51% in the 04-05, 05-06, and 06-07 school years, respectively.⁵

¹ <http://www.haydenmiddle.net/>, accessed 06/25/09

² <http://alabama.schooltree.org/public/Hayden-Middle-000277.html>, accessed 06/26/09

³ Alabama Reading Initiative, *The Alabama Reading Initiative Sails Toward a New Horizon: The ARI-PAL Maiden Voyage*. October 2007.

⁴ <http://www.haydenmiddle.net/>, accessed 06/25/09

⁵ <http://www.greatschools.net/modperl/achievement/al/285#from..Tab>, accessed 07/08/09.