

THOMPSON MIDDLE SCHOOL



Demographics of TMS

Grades 5-8

Total Students:	602
Free or Reduced Lunch:	63%
IEP	17%
White	46%
Black	25%
Hispanic	23%

“Building a Happier Assessment System and School Culture”

Our goal is to create a balanced assessment system that is purposeful yet not overwhelming to students and teachers. We strive to motivate, inspire and celebrate.

Challenges in 2011

- Low NECAP Scores
- Poor school culture
- Poor image in the Newport community
- Highest % in RI of students sent to private schools
- 80 phone calls to the police in 2010

In 2014...

Over three years, TMS school-wide NECAP scores have improved:

- **18%** in reading proficiency
- **9%** in mathematics proficiency
- **13%** in writing proficiency

Last year's 8th graders were the highest performing group in TMS history. 8th grade reading proficiency was **87%**.

Other achievements...

- TMS has cut truancy by over 50%.
- TMS has enrolled over 40 students who have chosen to leave private/parochial schools.
- TMS has been highlighted in the local newspaper over 20 times.

How have we done it?

- Motivation
- Inspiration
- Celebration

Assessment is part of the culture

In 2011, we made a conscious effort to celebrate one small thing at a time. Any improvement was a reason to celebrate. Our initial improvements formed the foundation of a new, positive culture that celebrates success. This culture has spread throughout the building to all grade levels.

How do we motivate?

- Academic Pep-Rally
- Challenge grade levels and teams
- Challenge the school
- Video of pep-rally

How do we celebrate?



Student Celebrations



Quarterly Celebrations of Student Achievement



How do we inspire?

- Crystal Apple Awards from The Horace Mann Companies
- Faces of Thompson Community Showcase
- Constant listserv messages and outreach to local media
- Recent video

Mid-Year Celebration at Jane Pickens Theater



Vision of TMS

- **A Culture of Discipline and Learning-** TMS is a place with consistent enforcement of rules where kids are nice to each other and the focus is always on rigorous academics. Nothing unsafe is tolerated. No time is wasted.
- **A Personalized Environment-** Our students are known well by faculty and staff and there is significant communication with families and the community.
- **Rigorous Academics-** Students need to work hard to earn good grades. We will read, write and do math extensively.
- **Partnerships Abound-** The community around us is invited in and supports our school and students.

Thank you

Jaime Crowley: jaimecrowley@npsri.net