



**GEORGIA PARTNERSHIP
FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION**

Bus Trip 18 Rider School Reflections

Smokey Road Middle School

A dedicated staff which has produced loyal and dedicated as well as motivated scholars. Well done. School pride and teamwork are very evident. The leadership is also hands on!

Flexibility with greater focus on results was seen with several teachers in one classroom to help reinforce learning and behavior (3 teacher method).

The quality of teaching was superior. This school truly strives to serve all students and is highly organized for success. BRAVO!

I liked how they include special education students with regular education. They seem to have an effective inclusion model. What I didn't like is how we only saw Math and Reading classes. Social Studies and Science are just as important. I wish there was more interdisciplinary work involving all subjects.

Smokey was impressive in the area of teacher to student ratio. Three to four teachers in class to ensure that every student is focused, engaged, and understands the standards is very impressive!

Loved the traditional style. Totally appreciated that we saw all types of learners.

Very dedicated leadership team. I really liked the idea of the way the staffing is handled, with only 9 in addition to the teachers. This says to me that the true focus is on the children and the learning process. I like the fact that the discipline referrals have noticeably decreased with the implementation of the 3 teacher environment.

Creative Manipulative Math program, 3 teacher program awesome & SMART Boards great tool throughout.

Love the 3 – teacher classroom approach! Great behavior management. Principal is highly attentive & extremely sharp!

Good environment – all students were engaged.

It was a wonderful experience to see the school, community, business collaboration in action!

Great use of flexibility using multiple teachers in classroom.

I appreciate that this was a traditional middle school. The multiple teacher model is very impressive.

I loved the smaller groups. It was great to hear the decrease in trouble makers by giving them more attention.

Excellent. Students are joyful. Really loved the 3 teacher concept and attention to special needs.

Traditional, but not. Not designated as theme, charter, magnet of special programs, but very much in tune to non-traditional methods of teaching. Definitely taking seriously the need for improved math performance. Has a plan to meet students at their needs.

Reading lab to train the correct eye movement in reading. Results – 5 yr. AYP.

Great technology class – enjoyed seeing production line. School officials were throughout the building – very safety conscious. Multiple groups (teacher led) within classrooms and display of student work.

I am really curious as to how they were able to take their Title I funds to acquire additional teachers and all the technologies. Most schools with Title I have a 1:30 teacher – student ratio. How can Smokey Road accomplish 3:25? I did feel the teachers were creative and engaging. They played a lot of learning games.

Excellent 3 teachers in class with 4 in some classes. Good discipline, excellent display of student works, GPS and essential questions, Great tour guides. Remedial math lab and reading lab. The technology lab was unique, SMART boards in every class (fantastic!), and good diversity.

This Middle school was awesome. Just from hearing the teachers and administrators speak, you can tell that the quality of education is wonderful. The test scores prove just that.

The Special Education classroom stood out the most for me. I like how the school ensures that all the needs of their students are met.

A wonderful use of funds to meet the needs of all students. The students were engaged and excited about learning. It was great to see all teachers using technology to motivate the students!

Remedial reading, multiple teachers per room and work in groups of students.

Very traditional in one way but amazing personnel (student/teacher ratio). They so believe in NCLB philosophy and making it work. The discipline environment was one all schools strive to attain. The tech/engineering area had a wonderful blend. The math classes made learning fun & less frustrating.

Smokey Road was a traditional middle school in most aspects. I loved seeing the 3 – 4 classroom teachers in the math class. I was very impressed with how proficient most teachers and students were using the SMART BOARD technology.