



# Marsing Middle School

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**Our Mission :** Building Independence and a Sense of Purpose Through Academic Achievement And Personal Development

## Our Visions:

- Students, staff, parents, and community members promote an atmosphere highly dedicated to academic achievement.
- Students are actively engaged through important ideas, meaningful activities, real world connections, and cutting edge technology.
- Students are involved in a variety of academic and extra-curricular activities that develop mind, body, and character.
- Together, staff and students create a safe and non-threatening learning environment.
- We accept, promote, and celebrate diversity as an important part of our culture of learning.

August 2, 2010

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new school year. This letter details our school's progress toward state reading, math, and language usage goals and it reviews options available to some students. We are pleased to announce that, because of an ongoing commitment to improvement, Marsing Middle School met the adequate yearly progress requirements (AYP) this spring. We are so proud of individual student growth, which has really been remarkable. Our students and teachers rock!

Each year, all schools are required to reach goals in reading, math, and language arts. Schools must meet the proficiency targets measured in 41 different areas, based on the spring ISAT scores. Our school AYP summary report is attached. This report provides information on how Marsing Middle School compares with other schools in the state. The full report will be available online at [www.sde.idaho.gov/reportcard/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/reportcard/). Even though we met the AYP requirements this spring, we are still identified as a school in need of improvement. A school must meet AYP for two years in a row in order to get out of "school improvement" status. Please contact me (Mr. Webster) at school if you would like more details about these numbers or if you want more information about student achievement in our school.

Marsing Middle School is still in "School Improvement Year Four." The No Child Left Behind [NCLB] law requires that, if practical, parents can transfer their child to another school that is not in School Improvement status. Marsing School District, of course, only has one middle school serving this age group. However, if you would like to pursue "school choice" there may be other options available to you. These options may include the following middle school programs that are not in "school improvement" status:

- Centerpoint Alternative School (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades only. Must qualify).
- Another Choice Virtual Charter ([www.anotherchoicecharter.org](http://www.anotherchoicecharter.org))
- Idaho Distance Education Academy ([www.idahoidea.org](http://www.idahoidea.org))
- Inspire Connections Academy ([www.connectionsacademy.com](http://www.connectionsacademy.com))
- Kaplan Academy of Idaho ([www.kaplanacademy.com/idaho](http://www.kaplanacademy.com/idaho))

You must notify the MMS office by August 18th if you want to pursue one of these options for your child. According to federal regulations, where applicable, Marsing School District may be able to provide all or part of the transportation necessary to attend one of these choices.

Following, is some information about how our school's ISAT scores compare to those available under the public school choice option.

	<b>% of students Proficient &amp; Advanced in Math in 2009-10 (Target 83%)</b>	<b>% of Students Proficient &amp; Advanced in Reading in 2009-10 (Target 85.6%)</b>	<b>% of Students Proficient &amp; Advanced in Language Usage in 2009-2010 (Target to meet or exceed previous year)</b>
Marsing Middle School	81.3% - Met Growth Target	89.3% - Met Target	80.7% - Met Target
State of Idaho (6th-8th)	78.2% - Target Not Met	88.2% - Met Target	73.5% - Target Not Met
COSSA Academy (formerly Centerpoint)	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available
Another Choice Virtual Charter	Not Yet Opened	Not Yet Opened	Not Yet Opened
Idaho Distance Education Academy	81.2% - Target Not Met	92.9% - Met Target	Not Available Measured Graduation Rate
Inspire Connections Academy	88.9% - Met Target	92.8% - Met Target	84.5% - Met Target
Kaplan Academy of Idaho	Not Available	Not Available	Not Available

We are very proud of our improved student achievement. We are very committed to promoting the maximum growth in learning for each student. We have many programs to help various sub-groups of students. Some of these programs are federally funded. We work diligently to wisely use these programs on behalf of our students.

- Title IA Schoolwide – Funds provided to schools with a high rate of poverty in order to help promote academic success and to promote college and career readiness. Part of these funds are set aside to help train parents to better help their students in school and to help them be more involved. Title I funds also help us serve the specific needs of homeless students.
- Literacy and Math Intervention Programs – Specifically filling learning gaps for students who are not yet proficient in reading, language usage or math.
- Title IC – Migrant Program
- Title III – Language Acquisition
- Special Education – Assistance and specific instruction for students with specific learning disabilities.
- 21st Century After School Programs – Funds the MMS Learning Lab

Your child may also be eligible to participate in a free after-school tutoring program called Supplemental Educational Services (SES). Eligible students are those from low-income families. If your child is eligible, you will receive more information by mail by August 27th.

There are many ways that you can be involved in helping us to address school Improvement. We could use the support of some dedicated parent volunteers, enabling us to better work towards academic improvement. We are looking for a couple parent volunteers to serve on our School Leadership Team, which focuses specifically on the areas of school improvement, academic achievement, and professional development. Classroom teachers can still use parent help in middle school. Please sign up to help if you would be willing to help a teacher. Most importantly, please stay involved in the academic life of your child. They need you more now than ever.

Sincerely

Paul Webster