

# **\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***

## **Chatfield Middle School Awarded 2016 Schools to Watch**

March 14, 2016

Schools to Watch is a program created by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform back in 1999. The goal of the program is to identify Middle Grades schools across the nation that meet criteria for being academically excellent, developmentally responsive, and are socially equitable. Schools in the running for this designation must fill out an extensive application and, if it is decided they meet the necessary criteria, the school is visited by a team of educators to determine if all of the criteria are met. During this visit school leaders, students, board members, teachers and community members are interviewed and extensive classroom observations are performed where the team analyzes the culture of the school looking for strong organizational skills and norms that permeate the organization.

Only two schools in Michigan were awarded this designation this year.

As Chatfield Schools' authorizer, we at Saginaw Valley State University's School/University Partnership Office are proud of the leadership, staff, and students of Chatfield Schools' community. We commend them for this designation and extend our gratitude for their embodiment of our motto, "Your success is our passion. Exciting things are happening every day in our Public School Academies!

For more information on Schools to Watch, please visit:

<http://middlegradesforum.org/>