Amundsen High School

**Accountable. Honorable. Scholarly. Every Day. All Day.**

Between our excellent record of student achievement, competitive academic and extracurricular programs, and 21st century facility, Amundsen High School is the school of choice for families from the surrounding neighborhood. Instruction aims to ensure both growth and achievement, and AHS graduates develop both the intercultural understanding and the essential skills needed to become leaders in their communities and our global society.

We accomplish this by connecting with students and providing individualized supports and resources. We nurture students so they develop positive skills and attitudes about themselves and their communities and grow into young adults who feel respected, valued and confident.

SEL in Chicago Public Schools

Chicago Public Schools believes that social & emotional learning is fundamental to a high quality education for every student in every neighborhood. The CPS School Climate Standards create shared understandings about the type of learning environments and instruction that promote student success in school and beyond. Safe and supportive schools are created through strong Multi-Tiered Systems of Support that meet the needs of all students, integration of SEL into daily instructional practices, and positive and collaborative relationships throughout the school community.

Our Approach

Amundsen offers a highly supportive environment and a network of student supports to ensure that no student "falls through the cracks". From the first days of Freshman Orientation, to Lunchtime Tutoring, to Senior Contracts, our staff gets to know students as individuals and connects them with activities, services, and resources to help them succeed. We take immense pride in going the extra mile to make personal connections with every student, ensuring that all students' academic, social & emotional, and extra-curricular needs are met.

Amundsen's consistent use of Restorative Practices shape students' mindsets so that their actions and reactions reflect self- and social-awareness and responsible decision making. Social & emotional learning supports are the foundation of Amundsen's dramatic change in school climate and culture.

School Facts

**Neighborhood School**

**Grades:** 9-12  
**Total Number of Students:** 1,387

**DEMOGRAPHICS:**  
- Asian: 9.7%  
- Black: 10.2%  
- Hispanic: 55.2%  
- White: 21.2%  
- Other: 3.7%

**STATISTICS:**  
- Low Income: 68.6%  
- Diverse Learners: 15.4%  
- Limited English: 8.1%  
- Mobility Rate: 9.8%
## Universal Supports

- Viking Snapshot (Reflection on Behavior, Attendance, and Grades)
- School wide expectations (5 school rules and Viking Way)
- Teacher led teacher-student conferencing
- Weekly Advisory
- Erie Health Center Clinic (located inside school)

## Targeted Supports

- Restorative Practices
- Deans conduct reflections, talking circles, and conflict resolution, and also facilitate re-integration following infractions and suspension
- Peer Conferencing
- Support groups for academics, anger, grief, and trauma
- Scholarly Hour (lunchtime and after-school tutoring)
- SAGA (intensive math support)

## Intensive Supports

- Behavior Health Team to monitor at-risk students
- Individual counseling with psychologist - Erie Health Center
- Mentorships
- Check-In-Check-Out (Accountability intervention for academics, behavior and attendance)
- Referral to individual counseling with external partners

## A Closer Look

Last year a struggling freshman student found himself in the discipline office most days, where he participated in restorative conversations and mediations. Our Dean recently joked that he’d forgotten about this student, now a sophomore, because he hasn’t seen him this school year. The student’s explanation for his change is, “It’s about what’s in your heart and not in your mind; and you have to try. It depends on who you hang with. I made my circle smaller. I started hanging with my coach. I can go to him. There are a lot of people you can go to but kids don’t realize that.”

## The SEL Impact

Amundsen focuses on SEL interventions because they impact our students’ well-being, in addition to academic achievement, growth, and school culture. Attendance rates have improved from 82.4% in 2012 to >92% in 2018. Furthermore, Amundsen is using restorative, instructive approaches, and alternatives to suspension to respond to misconduct in more than 80% of situations that arise.

Amundsen uses data to inform supports and develop lessons that address specific student needs. Pre and post tests are administered across grade levels to measure attitudes toward school, skills, and knowledge. In 2016-17, 94 students were referred to the Behavioral Health team.

## STUDENT

**HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE ADULTS AND STUDENTS AT SCHOOL?**

“All the adults are helping and are understanding, trying to better each student. Each adult tries to get to know a student whether it’s a security guard or the teachers.”