



Sutton Students Take A Bus, See the World

by Julie Davis Salisbury, Sutton Parent

As the mom of two Sutton students and stepmom to a college senior who went to a private middle and high school, I can clearly see the unique educational overlay my kids receive from Sutton that goes far beyond classroom academics. In short, I could sum up my experiences at Sutton with six simple words: Take A Bus, See the World.

I've used this phrase before, but it fits so nicely to describe what my children get from their time at Sutton and inside Atlanta's public schools. Every school can tout their academic prowess, and the Sutton academic story can hold its own with any school, due to our incredible faculty, challenging curriculum and wide array of enrichment programs. The concept of reaching the "whole child" is certainly in vogue these days, and Sutton works hard to teach my whole children about the whole world. The same holds true with the idea of building critical thinking among today's students. Many schools can teach this method, but it's hard for students to put critical thinking into every day practice when they are ensconced in a cookie-cutter environment where all are exceptional and sameness is cherished.

As a certified International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program school serving students from six elementary schools which are also IB certified, Sutton provides a global education that mirrors real life in Atlanta and other urban centers across the US. As our children learn to master all that is expected from the core curriculum, they also learn life lessons every day. The diversity of the culture at Sutton, not just in ethnicity, but also in socioeconomic status, lifestyle and cultural beliefs, adds lasting enrichment to what happens behind the doors of each classroom. It goes far beyond the core curriculum and represents the important life learning that cannot be bought, sold or adequately captured in a brochure. It's learning that becomes something unique and important for every child, and a part of their DNA for the rest of their lives.

Our teachers of course hold the key. Because in addition to teaching math and science and language arts and reading and PE and social studies, they teach our children how to deal with each other. How to learn about and even celebrate their differences, whether in learning style or lifestyle. They learn very early how to collaborate. How to compromise. How to co-exist. That knowledge creates a community of globally connected kids that will pay dividends for Atlanta and our country for generations to come.

Sutton Sports

DID YOU KNOW?

Sutton 7th and 8th graders can choose from 14 different sports?

6th graders can take part in a variety of intramural sports?

Volleyball and Ultimate Frisbee are now team sports at Sutton?



If you'd like to stay abreast of happenings at Sutton Middle School, sign up for the weekly Sutton Source. Go to www.suttonmiddleschool.org to sign up.

Sutton Scoop is a PTA publication of Sutton Middle School and is produced entirely by volunteer parents and members of the school's staff.

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Sutton MIDDLE SCHOOL

Scoop

FALL 2011



An International Baccalaureate School

Sutton Middle School is an authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) World School offering the Middle Years Programme in collaboration with North Atlanta High School. This program promotes active lifelong learning through interdisciplinary planning. Students are encouraged to question and evaluate information critically, to seek out and explore the links between their classroom subjects, and to develop an awareness of their place in the world.

Sutton Scoop

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dear Sutton Middle School Community,

We are off to another exciting school year and I am loving working with your kids. As I have watched our school's growth, I am continually amazed and pleased with what our teachers, students, and parents bring to our Northside cluster's middle school. We are the largest middle school in Atlanta and we take great pride in our neighborhood support. Thank you for recognizing what great public schools have to offer.

Our IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) is also growing and enriching our students as they mature into well-rounded young adults. I enjoy our new MYP Advisory program so much, where each faculty member mentors a group of students. This is an excellent way for our staff to get to know the kids from a different angle and for the kids to truly be connected to an authority figure at school and to freely speak their mind. We have lots of fun collaborating on different "thinking" and planning activities. Goal setting is so important. I am thrilled to have this extra peek into our students' thoughts and invite you to take a peek into our dynamic school with this issue of our Sutton Scoop!

– Audrey Sofianos, Principal, Sutton Middle School



Principal Audrey Sofianos

"I was pleasantly surprised at the level of parent involvement from my first exposure at the New Parent Coffee, the open house and PTA meeting, to calls I've received to help with various activities such as the upcoming Fall Frolic. My 6th grade son has adjusted quickly to the new routine of changing classes and is making new friends. All in all, a great experience in middle school!"

Angela Smith
Sutton & WT Jackson Parent

Did You Know?

Over the past three years, Sutton's students have shown a marked, consistent improvement in CRCT scores in every subject. We now see the majority of students meeting or exceeding at the 800+ mark with nearly half of those students performing at the 850+ level.

The SMS curriculum consists of homeroom and seven courses of study: five academic courses and two connections classes. All courses implement the IB philosophy and practices. The academic classes are:

Math & Language Arts:

Accelerated Challenge
Honors
Standard
Double Dose/Remedial

Foreign Language:

Advanced
Intermediate
Beginning

Social Studies & Science

Connections classes are:

Health and Fitness, PE, Art, Drama, Mac Lab, Business PC Lab, Guitar, Chorus, Band, Orchestra, and General Music



BBQ Palooza
A favorite Sutton Middle School tradition

Explore SMS

Fine Arts, Leadership, Academic Competitions & Clubs



Our Fine Arts Orchestra, Band & Art



Cougar Robotics Team



Guitar Class

DID YOU KNOW?

SMS has...

- 14 Academic Competitions
- 19 Clubs
- 13 Fine Arts Programs
- 15 Sports Teams

All-Pro Dad

"It is a great opportunity to get together as a community of parents and children, hear a positive life message, and start the day in an upbeat way."

-Chris Payne, Sutton & NAHS Parent

"The monthly All Pro Dad's meetings are a great opportunity for students and their fathers (or moms, mentors, etc.) to spend time together with other Sutton students and parents for a fun and motivational breakfast. From former NFL players to regular Joe's, the speakers share nuggets of wisdom that motivate adults and students alike."

-Joseph Shelton, Sutton Parent & All-Pro Dad Organizer

"Sutton has impressed me with all the different ways they have helped acclimate the 6th graders to middle school. They have had social events to help the children meet each other and help make it a smooth transition from elementary school."

Caroline Doherty
Sutton Parent



A Priceless Experience

The PricewaterhouseCoopers Life Skills (PwC) class is a semester-long course only available for eighth graders. Students learn valuable skills related to public speaking, resume writing, business ethics, and more. At the end of the course, students who will be fourteen by June 1, 2012 may apply to interview for a small number of paid summer internships. During these internships, students work together and with PwC staff on various projects for the company.

"PwC is a memorable, rewarding experience that will stay with me forever. They have reinforced my knowledge about how to save money, taught me how to have a successful interview, and given me actual experience in the workplace. I made many contacts during my internship that I know will prove valuable in my future!" -Chaz Torres (now a 9th grader at NAHS)

