



**BATAVIA
PUBLIC
SCHOOL
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Rotolo Middle School Named Illinois Horizon “Schools to Watch”—Fourth Time in a Row

March 2, 2016 (Batavia, IL) - Rotolo Middle School was just re-designated as an Illinois Horizon “Schools to Watch” by the Association of Illinois Middle-Level Schools (AIMS) and the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. Schools to Watch designations are held for three years and this is Rotolo Middle School’s fourth designation.

Illinois is one of 17 states to participate in the Schools to Watch program, and currently, only 24 schools in Illinois have earned the designation.

Schools to Watch is a nationally recognized, state-operated model school identification and school improvement program that focuses on students in grades 5-8. The program was developed by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform to recognize middle schools that are continuously moving forward in the areas of academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity, and organizational structures.

“The ‘Schools to Watch’ designation reflects the superior work of our students and staff members,” said Bryan Zwemke, principal, Rotolo Middle School. “The fact that we have now received this designation four times is a testament to our commitment to students, collaborative culture, and continuous improvement.”

The process to receive designation—and re-designation—is rigorous. Schools must complete a self-evaluation and complete a detailed application. Trained state teams visit applicant schools to look for evidence of the criteria in action. Teams choose only schools that meet the performance criteria and demonstrate results.

Rotolo Middle School will receive recognition at the National Forum Schools to Watch Conference in Washington, D.C., in June 2016.

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