

# NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS TO WATCH

## MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE

### Holland Township School



#### Designated in 2009

Holland Township School • Hunterdon County •  
Nancy Yard, Principal • 710 Milford-Warren Glen Rd.,  
Milford, N.J. 08848  
• Tel (908) 995-2401, Fax (908) 995-7138  
School Web site: <http://hts.k12.nj.us/>

### 2009 School Statistics

Holland Township is a residential community located in the northwestern part of the county. The Delaware River forms its boundary with Pennsylvania and the Musconetcong River, its boundary with Warren County. The 23.9 square mile community is home to 5124 residents. The community is proud of its school and very supportive of its programs.

(Source: Holland Township Clerks Office, 2000 Census)

Enrollment: 672

Grade Levels: preK-8

School Schedule: The school has nine forty-three minute periods. The school provides an alternative schedule that utilizes extended learning blocks to support in-depth studies and curricular integration.

#### Student Demographics

- 3% Hispanic
- 95% White
- 1% African American
- .4% American Indian
- .8% Asian
- 0% Pacific Islander
- 6% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 0% English Learners

(Source: 2008 STW application)

Visit the New Jersey Department of Education <http://www.state.nj.us/education/> to view this school's data for prior years.

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

### Academic Excellence

- The school uses integrated units which foster continuity of learning across disciplines. An alternative schedule allows for the creation of extended learning blocks. Student achievement is assessed using integrated rubrics and performance assessments.
- Students are actively engaged in peer conferences, peer review, and self reflection.
- The school participates in the New Jersey Literacy Consortium.
- The school is committed to collaborative teaching with inclusive teaching models in grades 6-8.
- The school provides ongoing articulation with the local districts to make certain that our students are prepared to transition into the high school.
- The school supports the integration of technology. Students are engaged in meaningful research using laptops computers. Students have the opportunity to present their findings beyond the classroom and student groups provide presentations to the board of education on a monthly basis.

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### **Developmental Responsiveness**

- The school utilizes student-led conferences. Students assemble work samples and discuss goals, work products, and behavior. The school provides students with a checklist and planner for use during the conferences. Parents are encouraged to set goals with their children.
- Students in seventh and eighth grade serve as peer helpers who assist younger students by acting as buddies for strength, support, and guidance.
- The school was recognized by the New Jersey Association of Student Councils with a Community Smile Award, amassing over 6600 hours of community service. The science club helped assemble backpacks for the Connecting Reading through Outdoor World (CROW) Project funded by a mini-grant from Toyota Tapestry and the SEED Foundation. Backpacks are checked out through the library and engage families in investigating science in their own backyard. The Helping Hands Club and Student Council combine their efforts to honor local veterans at a community Thanksgiving luncheon. Last year 160 senior citizens were welcomed and served by the students.

### **Social Equity**

- The school provides a luncheon each month to honor students who exemplify the character traits of Respect, Responsibility, Safety, and Persistence. Students are recognized with a “garbage-free” lunch served by their administrators.
- The school recognizes the arts as being essential to understanding the constant evolution of the diverse American culture and has created art galleries throughout the school to provide a forum for the area schools, residents, parents, teachers, and students to view, and discuss.
- The school participates in a student exchange program with Germany and a trip to France to study art.
- The school has developed a Spanish Enrichment program to compliment the Spanish Language Program. This program immerses students in hands-on experiences that broaden their cultural understanding and uses Spanish as a tool for communication.

### **Organizational Support**

- The School utilizes a duty-free period to plan for individual students, hold Intervention and Referral Service Team meetings and Child Study Team meetings.
- The school supports department meetings to discuss curriculum and best practices. Weekly meetings are held to coordinate texts and materials, discuss achievement data, and collaborate on methodologies.
- The school is committed to sustained professional development. The staff participates in two full in-service days; five half days and monthly meetings to allow for ongoing professional development opportunities. The school supports “in-house experts” who serve as resources to all staff members.
- The school uses a “team” approach where the sharing of ideas is welcomed.
- The school faculty is committed to continued improvement and continues to use the *This We Believe Statements* to foster growth and change.