

# NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS TO WATCH

## MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE

### Ocean City Intermediate School



#### Designated in 2008

Ocean City Intermediate School • Ocean City Public Schools  
• Cape May County • Dr. Pamela Vaughan, Principal  
• 1801 Bay Avenue, Ocean City, N.J. 08226  
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<http://www.ocean.city.k12.nj.us/index.php?school=2>

### 2008 School Statistics

Ocean City is a world famous seashore community located in the heart of the Jersey Shore with a population of 15,378 (Census, 2000). Located at the northern tip of Cape May County, it is perfectly situated for a vacation; just 20 minutes from Atlantic City, 70 minutes from Philadelphia, and two hours from New York City. The diversity of special events, recreational programs, concerts and family festivities is second to none.

(Source: [www.ocnj.us](http://www.ocnj.us))

Enrollment: 412

Grade Levels: 4-8

School Schedule: The school is organized into twenty-six modules of fifteen minutes, allowing for ninety minute blocks (six mods) for both language arts literacy and mathematics and three mods for social studies and science. This allows teams to adapt the schedule for extended learning, labs, or special projects.

#### Student Demographics

- 2.7% Hispanic
- 77% White
- 10% African American
- 1.6% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 7.4% Other
  
- 21% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 1.5% English Learners

Source: 2007 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 emphasizes Learning Focused Strategies such as alternate forms of assessments, interdisciplinary instruction, and the use of rubrics across disciplines. The school has also introduced curriculum mapping and Understanding by Design to align instruction and assessment.
- The school uses technology across disciplines. For example, students in a physical education class used technology to develop aerobic routine videos and to track their steps using pedometers.

*(continued)*

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- The school participates in the world languages STAMP project.
- The school supports CORE classes, including health and physical education and the arts, that meet for one hour on alternate days, allowing for project-based learning.

### **Developmental Responsiveness**

- The school supports afterschool clubs and programs such as the PB&J Club where students prepare peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for a local homeless shelter.
- The school supports a strong character education program that is evident in all areas of the school.
- The school supports grade level teams that include special education teachers. Teams share information and strategies to meet the needs of all students. It also supports a related arts team that addresses the needs of students and connects to the grade level teams.

### **Social Equity**

- The school supports an acceleration program where students with disabilities and underperforming students preview the upcoming vocabulary and essential content of a subject in a small group setting before getting the material in the regular education classroom.
- The school supports flexible mathematics instruction that allows students in grades six to eight to take Algebra I in grade seven and Geometry in grade eight.

### **Organizational Support**

- The school has strong ties to the community including partnerships with the town library for technology and with the community center where students take swimming as part of physical education classes.
- The school has a commitment to shared leadership and to improving teaching and learning.

### **Focus for the Future—Continuing Improvement**

- The school should continue to explore new ways to support students with disabilities to ensure that they can meet the NJCCCS. It should continue to emphasize differentiated instruction and inclusionary practices in all classrooms.
- Since the school is small and already has flexible scheduling, the school should consider convening a working group to discuss how advisory or mentoring programs might be implemented.