

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS SCHOOLS TO WATCH

MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR’S GUIDE

Jericho Middle School



Designated in 2009

Jericho Middle School • Jericho UFSD • Nassau County
• New York State • Principal: Donald F. Gately •
School Address: 99 Cedar Swamp Road, Jericho NY
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2007-2008 School Statistics (NYS Report Card)

Community: Size/characteristics Suburban NY
Enrollment: 846
Grade Levels: 6-8
School Schedule: 9 periods day- 2 day cycle

Student Demographics

53% Male
47% Female
2% Hispanic/Latino
64% White
0% American Indian/Alaskan Native
3% African American
0% Filipino
31% Asian/Pacific Islander
12% Students with Disabilities
0.8% Free/Red. Lunch/Econ. Disadvantaged
1.5% English Learners

2005 AYP: ELA 180 Math 191
2006 AYP: ELA 186 Math 190
2007 AYP: ELA 192 Math 194

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- NYS Assessments- Named High Achieving /Gap Closing School by NYSED from 2004-2008
- Data-driven instruction based on benchmark assessments in every subject
- Participation in accelerated courses open to any student
- 59% of 8th grade students currently enrolled in Integrated Algebra
- 58% of 8th grade students currently enrolled in Regents Earth Science
- All students have the opportunity to earn high school credit in World Languages
- Support class available for focused and intensive instruction in “gap” areas in each core subject by a teacher certified in the subject and special ed
- Academic Intervention Service (AIS) is data driven and monitored using AIS-M direct
- Extra-help available during lunch and after school / cross grade tutoring with H.S. students
- Standards-based report card clearly communicates performance to parents and students
- Interdisciplinary teams collaborate with library/media specialists, art teachers, and technology
- New teacher induction program with emphasis on the Essential Elements of a Standards Focused MS
- Inclusive special education model that utilizes co-teaching, differentiated instruction, and high level student interest to promote student success
- MST and Art push-in specialists support interdisciplinary curriculum projects

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Developmental Responsiveness

- Elective exploratories (I.E. Videography, Project History, Little Chefs) allow students to pursue personal interests
- Social and Emotional Literacy Competencies (C.A.S.E.L.) foundation for S.E.L. program
- *Voices of Love and Freedom, Project Wisdom, WISE Start* and *Facing History* programs support S.E.L. program
- Highly developed Bully Reduction/Anti-Violence Education Program (B.R.A.V.E.) in alliance with North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System Behavioral Health Sciences
- Health instruction in grades six, seven, and eight
- Full time school psychologist, C.S.W. and guidance personnel develop groups to meet student needs
- Students earn V.A.L.U.E. (Volunteer Activities Leave Us Enriched) credits for community service
- Nassau County Bar Association partner in mentoring at-risk youngsters
- High school students mentor and assist in the 6th grade transition through Project A.I.M
- Regular Principal's Coffee Hours and weekly parent newsletters keeps parents informed
- Community service electives offered grades 6 - 8

Social Equity

- *Personal Best* program downplays competition in favor of personal growth and development
- *Personal Best* Award ceremonies every marking period to recognize students' progress
- Welcome Night for new families and regular Principal Coffee Hours encourages family communication
- School-wide participation in National Mix-it-Up Day, No Name Calling Week and National Day of Silence
- Student voice incorporated in decision-making through SDM and Student Council
- *Comprehensive School Climate Inventory* and *School as a Caring Community Profile* used as school climate evaluative tools
- In-Service courses: *Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity* (S.E.E.D.: Wellesley College)
- Active member of the Nassau County Anti-Bias Consortium
- Only middle school on Long Island with a Gay-Straight Alliance club
- Guidance counselors loop with the students from grades 6-8
- All teachers post homework and pertinent information on Blackboard

Organizational Support

- Student Team Advisors for every interdisciplinary team serve as a liaison to encores teachers, Learning Center staff, administration and parents
- Weekly meetings for Social Emotional Literacy Cabinet and Student Team Advisors
- Monthly meetings for Site Based Team, Middle School Cabinet, PTSA Executive Board, Jericho Teachers Association and Administration
- Board of Education supports teaming to allow for extended learning periods and increased electives
- Teams have flexible block scheduling for interdisciplinary projects
- Professional growth opportunities in a variety of in-service offerings and conferences
- Regularly scheduled faculty and curriculum meetings supports vertical and horizontal articulation
- District level competitive grant program supports collaborative planning for teacher research and development
- Member of the Nassau County Middle-Level Principal's Association, New York State Middle School Association, National Middle School Association, New England League of Middle Schools, Nassau County Anti-Bias Consortium and many other organizations supporting middle-level education