



## Essential Elements Schools to Watch Model School – Visitor’s Guide

### Pioneer Middle School



#### Designated in 2008; Redesignated 2011

Pioneer Middle School • Pioneer Central School District •  
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#### School Characteristics and Replicable Practices Academic Excellence

- Each grade level participates in project or problem based learning. Students use 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills such as research, collaboration, problem solving and presentations to complete these interdisciplinary units.
- Local benchmark exams are based on the Common Core Standards. They are taken by all students in ELA and Math across grades 3-8. Teachers use data to analyze instruction and learning, a plan of adjustments are applied in the classroom to address any learning gaps students may have
- Students have access to the latest technology including but not limited too: wireless internet throughout the building, wireless laptop carts, digital media projectors in every room, two real net rooms where students can take virtual field trips, wireless chalkboards, smart boards, classroom performance systems and any student can sign out a lap top computer to complete work at home.
- After school academic programs include academic intervention services, homework help and a targeted after school homework for at risk students.
- Flexible master schedule allows students to work in blocks of time on special projects.
- High level of professional development in Thoughtful Education, RTI, Literacy Strategies, and Capturing Kids Hearts.
- Staff use research based Thoughtful Education strategies to increase student engagement and critical thinking.
- Superintendent and Board of Education support research based instructional programs to meet the diverse needs of student learners.

### School Statistics NYS School Report Card

Community: Size/characteristics

Enrollment: 780

Grade Levels: 5-8

School Schedule: Modified Block

Student Demographics

52% Male

48% Female

2% Hispanic/Latino

96%White

1% American Indian/Alaskan Native

1% African American

0% Filipino

0% Asian/Pacific Islander

16% Students with Disabilities

53%Free/Red. Lunch/Econ. Disadvantaged

0% English Learners

Pioneer Middle is in good standing in all areas!

2008 AYP: ELA PI 165 AMO 132 Math PI 177 AMO 101

2009 AYP: ELA PI 181 AMO 140 Math PI 187 AMO 131

2010 AYP: ELA PI 174 AMO151 Math PI 187 AMO 131

## **Developmental Responsiveness**

- Teams across all grade levels work to meet the social, emotional, academic and intellectual needs of all students
- PBIS Targeted Committee focuses on interventions and support programs for students such as check in / check out and a mentoring program which connects students to a caring adult.
- Targeted learning lab is designed to motivate and hold students accountable for doing high quality academic work prior to going home.
- Positive Behaviors and Interventions Committee (PBIS) have established a Universal Committee to focus on sharing common behavioral expectations and positive rewards for all students.
- Home base provides time for character building activities and for staff and student connections to occur. This is essential to fostering a positive working relationship between staff and students.
- Therapy dogs provide companionship and comfort for students.
- School counselors run support groups that address a variety of student issues including: Friends group, Teen group, Banana Splits, Healthy Woman, Anger Management and Girl's group.
- Turnabout Program connects a county social worker with ten students and their families to increase rates of attendance, positive behaviors and student achievement.
- Pioneer Middle School teachers use a wide variety of instructional strategies including: hands-on activities, centers, stations and individual learning opportunities, in addition to cooperative learning groups, Socratic seminars, differentiated instruction, and the integration of technology.
- Our Physical Education and Health curriculum educate students about health, wellness, life skills, social development, personal physical growth and fitness.
- Students learn general music by playing a variety of instruments.
- Our Comprehensive Guidance Plan focuses on college and career readiness. Students take a learning style and career interest inventory. Career day allows students to connect with local professionals and college recruiters while identifying their career goals.

## **Social Equity**

- Pioneer also has a child study team where parents, teachers, and students work collaboratively to determine a plan which will enable a child to overcome academic, social, and emotional barriers that are impeding success.
- Technology integration is supported by our ITS team including a technology integration specialist that helps both students and teachers learn about new technology.
- Recreation programs and 55 additional clubs and organizations such as chess club, safe school ambassadors, cooking club, dance class – 200 students attend daily.
- Transportation for all students is provided during the after school program at both 3:15 and 5:00pm.
- Pioneer Middle School provides students with a safe, caring environment where student input is encouraged, sought and celebrated.
- Positive student behaviors are celebrated and acknowledged using caught being good cards, community contributor certificates, and positive post cards.

## **Organizational Support**

- Administration works closely with teachers, school counselors and support staff at bi-weekly team meetings as well as monthly department, technology, faculty, PBIS, and Curriculum Council meetings.
- Research-based staff development is embedded in our district as part of the commitment to building a professional learning community, in addition to bringing experts into the district.
- Teachers work throughout the summer as eleven-month or twenty-day employees to hone their teaching practices, share ideas with colleagues, participate in district/building initiatives and refine curriculum maps.
- We believe all students can succeed if their academic, intellectual, social, and emotional needs can be met.