



Pennsylvania Don Eichhorn Schools: Schools to Watch

Canonsburg Middle School



Designated in 2011

Canonsburg Middle School • Canon-McMillan School District • Washington County • Pennsylvania • Dr. Greg Taranto, Principal • 25 East College Street Canonsburg, PA 15317 • Phone (724) 745-9030 • Fax (724) 873-5230
 E-mail: tarantog@cmsd.k12.pa.us • School Web site: http://cmsd.k12.pa.us/cmsd/cm_canon_middle/

2007-10 School Statistics

(Source: PowerSchool Student Information System)

Community: Suburban/approximately 15 miles south of Pittsburgh; comprised of the Borough of Canonsburg and the Townships of North Strabane and Cecil

Enrollment: 734

Grade Levels: 7 & 8

School Schedule: 8 period bell schedule

Student Demographics

0.9%	Hispanic
92%	White
5.4%	African American
0%	Filipino
0.9%	Asian
0%	Pacific Islander

20%	Free/Reduced Lunch
0.2%	English Learners

2007 AYP: Achieved
 2008 AYP: Achieved
 2009 AYP: Achieved
 2010 AYP: Achieved

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Vision Statement, Middle School Philosophy, Dedication to Adolescent Learners
- Standards-based and Standards-aligned curricula
- Locally-developed benchmark assessments in math and reading classes
- Data analysis and data-driven instruction using standardized and benchmark test results via data warehouse
- Teaming w/ daily common tam planning time
- Thematic units and interdisciplinary lessons
- Focus on educating the whole child (arts, music, technology)
- Nationally-recognized band program

Pennsylvania Don Eichhorn Schools: Schools to Watch

Canonsburg Middle School

- Art enrichment, projects, trips
- Algebra I offered to 7th graders
- Co-teaching model with learning support teachers providing instruction in the classes
- T.O.P.S. class taken by all 8th graders (Team Oriented Problem Solving)
- Academic social networking – wikis and blogs
- Variety of technology available to all teachers

Developmental Responsiveness

- Homebase occurs on a daily basis first thing in the morning; students have an opportunity to participate in activities/clubs/meetings, get extra help, make up work; teachers have an opportunity to meet with their students, offer extra assistance, and advise on a variety of topics
- Community/business partners speak with students about careers
- Online grade book, assignments, team blogs, and informative letters/newsletters readily available to parents via building website
- Fitness and wellness stressed: Annual 7th grade FIT Day, physical education, health, family and consumer science, intramural program, extracurricular athletics
- Annual “Girls Night Out” event targets female middle school students and provides a forum to address issues pertinent to their social/emotional stage
- Middle School Issues class, taught by counselors to all 7th grade students, with a focus on pertinent topics to the age group (bullying, cyberbullying, conflict resolution, peer pressure)
- Digital citizenship and internet safety explicitly taught in multiple subjects
- Active student council, with officers and homebase representatives, focus on helping others and giving back to the community
- Multi-faceted “move-up” program to assist with transitioning students into both the 7th and 9th grades

Social Equity

- Staff uses varied approaches in instruction to meet diverse learners’ needs
- Differentiated instruction and assessment
- Grading practices aligned with current literature
- Teachers available to students during the homebase period for extra assistance
- Newly-implemented Academic Center to help struggling or accelerated students available to all students
- Focus on different cultures, societies, and religions in the 7th grade social studies curriculum
- World Language Club, sponsored by language teachers, meets monthly to learn and experience various cultures through activities, films, holiday celebrations
- School-wide events such as holiday pep rallies, appreciation days, student-faculty contests available to all students and based on clear, attainable criteria
- Sports offered to all students with a “no cut” policy

Organizational Support

- Assistance for at-risk students (SAP Team, part-time therapist, active student counselors)
- Various clubs and activities
- Faculty professional development, professional memberships, continuing education
- Data analysis (Performance Tracker, data warehouse)
- Teaming philosophy, common expectations and management plans
- Relationships with local colleges and universities (student teachers, interns, Junior Achievement program)
- Olweus Bullying Prevention Program