



## **Pennsylvania Don Eichhorn Schools: Schools to Watch**



### **Titusville Middle School Titusville, Pennsylvania**



#### **Designated in 2011**

**Titusville Middle School,**  
**Titusville Area School District**  
Crawford County, Pennsylvania  
415 Water Street, Titusville, Pennsylvania 16354

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### **2007-10 School Statistics**

**Community:** Rural school district, serving students in a three county area  
**Enrollment:** 451  
**Grade Levels:** 6-8  
**Schedule:** bell schedule - 42 minute content class and 30 daily advisory period

#### **Student Demographics**

98.0% White  
1.0% Hispanic  
0.2% African American  
0.2% Native American  
0.2% Filipino  
0.2% Asian  
0.2% Pacific Islander

56.0% Free/Reduced Lunch  
0.2% English Learners

#### **PSSA Results:**

	AYP	Math	Reading
2007	<b>X</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>73</b>
2008	<b>X</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>78</b>
2009	<b>X</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>75</b>
2010	<b>X</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>77</b>

*The Titusville Middle School is a unique collaborative environment. Our mission is to inspire our students to learn, develop and succeed in partnership with families and our community.*

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

### Academic Excellence

- Unique need of adolescent learners are addressed through cross-curricular programming. Grade levels determine the programming based on content and design. Examples include outdoor education, watershed education and historical programming.
- Student focused curricular programming includes: daily advisory, academic support periods, gifted programming, learning support inclusion and consistent k-8 curriculum.
- Specific Programming Includes:
  - **Academic Coaching** -- is provided by each student's advisor. All students in TMS have an academic coach that meets with them to discuss their grades, academics, and behavioral choices. The goal of this program is to enhance the advisor/student relationship and to increase student achievement.
  - **Academic Contract** – The purpose of an academic contract is to inform parents that their student is in danger of failing for the school year. It also helps the team develop an academic plan for success. This contract is between the student, his/her family and the Titusville Middle School faculty and staff
  - **Academic Support Periods (ASP)** – is another name for a super structured study period for the students. This allows the students and the teachers to provide remediation and enrichment during this teaching period to the students. This period allows for flexible grouping determined by the teams of teachers. This flexibility also allows for individualization of supports and instruction to push all students towards making at least one year's worth of growth in their achievement.
  - Other support programs include (available to all students upon need): Power Tutoring, Homework Help, Peer Tutors, Homework Hoopla, Math Club, etc.

### Developmental Responsiveness

- TMS faculty and staff focuses on all areas of adolescent development including academic, physical and social development.
- All students are assigned an advisor who works with their students all year to strengthen connections. During that time a variety of topics are covered from making positive choices, to bullying from creating healthy snacks to developing listening skills.
- Transition is also an important focus. Students entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to a variety of activities which happen throughout the course of their 5<sup>th</sup> grade year and into the summer. Additionally, all students participate in Move-Over day activities as a way to ease the transition.
- Specific Programming Includes:
  - **Agendas** – The TMS Agenda Program is designed to assist all students with their organizational skills.
  - **Case Managers** – Each student referred to the Student Assistance Program is assigned a case manager who checks in regularly with them as ongoing support.
  - **Connect Ed.** – Through a pre-recorded message, students and parents are notified about school delays, cancellations and events.
  - **Guidance Curriculum** – is to promote personal, social, and academic development by helping students to learn skills, behaviors, and attitudes necessary for problem solving and decision making at a developmentally appropriate level. TMS school counselors facilitate this through classroom presentations, team meetings, and group or individual interactions with students.

- **Homework Help** -- is a program designed to give students an opportunity to receive additional tutoring, academic coaching, and organizational assistance during Academic Support Periods or after school.
- **Power School** – is the name of the data system used by the Titusville Area School District. Inside the Power School program is an application for parents, Power Parent is the internet connection for parents to view their student’s grades, attendance, upcoming assignments and the portal to communicate electronically with the Titusville Middle School.
- **Retraining** – is issued to a student who has not mastered the desired school behaviors outlined in the school wide expectations. Retraining can occur for one hour before or after school or at various times throughout the school day. It can be as simple as a teacher coaching a student to redirect behavior or having a student practice the expectations to encourage improved student future behavior during the student’s time not class time.
- **School-wide Positive Behavior Supports** –provides a positive focus to encourage desirable student behaviors. A set of universal expectations for behavior are established for all students in all locations of the school. These expectations generally promote core values such as respect, responsibility, and safety.

## Social Equity

- TMS faculty works as teams to help ensure that all students receive individualized help and attention that is needed.
- Each team meets daily to discuss student concerns, recognize student achievement, and to plan for upcoming events or interdisciplinary units.
- Specific Programming Includes:
  - **Activity Period** – The TMS Activity Period Program was originally designed as an extension of the Exploratory Program. The purpose is to engage the students in leisure activities on a monthly basis. These activities also allow for the students to explore various activities that may last a lifetime.
  - **Career Education** – This program provides students with opportunities to acquire information about a wide range of careers and work skills. Through assessments, class presentation and research, students will become more knowledgeable about the world of work and how it relates to their individual interests and abilities.
  - **Gold Cards** – When a student is “caught” doing something good, they might receive a Gold Card from a teacher or administrator. Cards can be accumulated for rewards.
  - **Homework Hoopla** – is a program to reward outstanding academic achievement and effort. Students who have turned in all homework assignments for the grading period are eligible for a grand reward.
  - **News to Note** -- is a positive reinforcement program in which teachers are encouraged to write positive notes to parents about their students. These messages are mailed home to the family.
  - **Rotary Student of the Year** – is a program between the Titusville Rotary Club and TMS faculty and staff. The students who are chosen exemplify excellence in academics and character and is honored during a Rotary Club meeting and in front of the entire faculty, staff, students, and the community.
  - **Stand Tall** – is a program to give students a supportive peer group, to keep them drug and alcohol free.
  - **Student Council** – is an organization that seeks to increase school spirit, encourage student participation, and promote volunteerism. It is a group that sponsors school events, supports

the community, and creates a school environment where all students are valued and each and every student is appreciated.

- **Student of the Month** – Monthly, each team selects students who have demonstrated qualities and characteristics which set them apart from their peers. These characteristics can be in the area of academics as well as social skills. These students' accomplishments are recognized in different ways depending upon the team and grade level.

## Organizational Support

- Since our inception, the Titusville Middle School has devoted time and resources to following the structural recommendations of the National Middle School Association. Therefore, TMS is physically structured to house three separate wings for each grade level.
- Every day, teachers have a dedicated team planning time to discuss student and curricular needs. Additionally, teams meet weekly, as a grade level, to plan and implement interdisciplinary units.
- The unified arts or exploratory teachers also meet daily. Within the schedule, time has been carved out to allow for these unique teachers to meet and discuss cross curricular units as well as issues they are facing in the classroom.
- An additional organizational structure utilized by the TMS faculty is school committees. Each team must send a representative to each of the four school committees. This allows Communication then flows between grade levels and across disciplines. The four school committees are Advisory, Data and Curriculum, Transition, and CARE.
- The Student Assistance Team (SAP) meets daily and its members represent each of the core curriculum teams, as well as the administration and guidance office. SAP team members are given a case load of students to monitor and help mentor.
- School Wide Student Assistance is an inclusive approach to providing student assistance to all students in the building. These interventions are separated into a three tiered model where the intensity of the interventions meets the needs of the students.
- Truancy Intervention Team is a category of our Student Assistance Program that focuses on increasing student attendance and providing the necessary supports to students experiencing difficulties in attending regularly in school.
- Alternative Education Programming is a tier three intervention of our Student Assistance Program that focuses on assisting students who have exhausted all interventions possible in the traditional middle school. This program provides additional counseling, structure, and focuses on successfully transitioning students back into the traditional school environment with the necessary tools for success in school.
- Finally, teams have been created to monitor the progress of students currently receiving special services. These are known as Child Study Teams. These teams are grade level specific and are comprised of special education teachers, guidance counselors and administrators. They meet weekly to discuss specific learning needs of these students. In addition, the Child Study Team also serves as the intervention team to aide in the process of individualizing success for all students in our building that are struggling academically, behaviorally, or socially.