School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- NYS Assessments – A top performer in region of strong schools, among the highest in NYS
- 46% of 8th grade students currently enrolled in Integrated Algebra
- 40% of 8th grade students enrolled in Regents Earth Science
- All students have the opportunity to earn high school credit in World Languages
- Acceleration available in Math, Science, World Languages
- Academic Intervention Service classes/programs in Math, Science, English and World Languages
- Academic Support through summer program
- Daily scheduled Enrichment period for academic support, enrichment, extension and integration
- Project Lead the Way (award winning) – pre-engineering classes for seventh and eighth grade students
- Two-teacher sixth grade team based on UBD principles
- Instructional Leadership Team supports teachers and students in programming, academic support and professional development
- RtI philosophy integrated into classrooms, collaborative and creative approach to meeting the needs of students on an individual basis
Developmental Responsiveness

• Thematic Units with designated books of choice in ELA classes
• Teaming model with 4 teachers, Learning Specialist, Education Assistant for each team of less than 100 students.
• Two-teacher team in 6th grade, wrap-around 7/8th team
• 5th to 6th grade transition program for students and parents
• 8th to 9th transition program for students and parents
• Elected Student Council
• Elected peer helpers supervised by counselors
• WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) program provides year-long support for new students
• All students participate in service learning/community service
• Counselors provide individual and group counseling
• Support groups formed by counselors and psychologist responsive to student body needs
• Counselors have created a curriculum for in-class presentations (respect, bullying, peer pressure)
• Offer over forty different after school clubs
• New building, state of the art facility, (opened in 2006) designed around needs of adolescents
• Very active Student Council: Spirit Week, Homecoming, charity drives, talent shows, coordinating events throughout the year to promote school spirit and pride
• Large Group Instruction room (LGI) provides appropriate venue for whole team activities
• Learning Center provides collaborative support in areas of Reading, Math, Science, Executive Function and Structured Study Hall
• Team classrooms clustered together
• No bells passing time between classes
• Two thirds of students are involved in music program
• Green building: geothermal heating and cooling, recycles paper and plastic: Rochester Business Journal’s Environmental Leadership Award

Social Equity

• All students take courses in Art, Music, Home and Careers, Health and Technology Education
• Fully inclusive classes
• Co-teaching throughout grade levels
• Social-Emotional Learning Initiatives – Academic and Performance Character
• Character education embedded in all classes and Enrichment
• Activity Nights – PTSA Sponsored – one Friday night per month, per grade
• Weekly “Great Kid Of the Week” postcards mailed home – focus on character
• Computers in all classrooms
• The building is wireless and contains six mobile laptop carts
• A variety of technology available for instructional use.
• Homework and tutoring (HS students) clubs after school
• Fitness room and intramural sports program available and supervised for students after school
• Title I School

Organizational Support

• Extensive Induction Program for new teachers
• Teacher mentors for new teachers
• Instructional Coaches available to staff
• Common planning time for teams
• Instructional Challenge teachers to assist with lesson planning (differentiation, integration, UBD etc.)
• Instructional Technology Support staff to assist with technology integration
• Embedded staff development during the school day
• Building level, teacher led professional development sessions on educational trends and strategies
• All staff undergoing Standards Based Planning and Backwards Design
• Shared instructional decision-making team involving parent representation
• Parent volunteers utilized to support program.
• Teacher Center serves entire district by offering an extensive menu of PD