



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

Indian Lake Central School



Re-Designated in 2015

Indian Lake Central School-
Hamilton County-New York State
NYS Rt. 30 Indian Lake NY 12842 phone-518-648-5024
Principal David Snide
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School Statistics

(Source: NYS School Report Card)

Community: Rural Adirondack Community
Enrollment: 26 Students
Grade Levels 6-8
School Schedule: 10 Period-Six Day

Student Demographics

52%	Male
48%	Female
0%	Hispanic/Latino
100%	White
0%	American Indian/Alaskan Native
0%	African American
0%	Filipino
0%	Asian/Pacific Islander
16%	Students with Disabilities
46%	Free/Red. Lunch/Econ. Disadvantaged
0%	English Learners

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Indian Lake’s small school setting allows for individualized approach.
- Academic Intervention Services and RTI provided based on NYS assessments, Aimsweb assessments and teacher recommendation.
- All students receive extra instruction for ELA and Math via learning labs. This functions as Academic Intervention Services or Enrichment.
- Interdisciplinary curriculum-an annual cross-curricular middle school trip.
- 80% proficiency has been established as an indicator of high school and college readiness.
- Student academic progress is articulated to the students and parents at the minimum of every 5 weeks.
- Student-Led Conferences have been established in the place of traditional parent-teacher conferences. Student portfolios are created and shared with parents, while teachers act as consultants. This provides for increased accountability for students.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences are also held during the school year and complement the Student-Led Conferences.
- A pep rally is held to ignite the interest of parents, students, and staff for the NYS assessments. This includes a countdown wall, calendar with activities for parents to do with their child, and a key ring of “power words” for each student. Students become familiar with words that appear in many of the questions on the NYS assessments.
- Annual Open House and 5th Grade Parent Night is another method for parent participation.

- After school study hall provides snacks and allows individual assistance for students. The goal for the 2015-16 school year is to provide this five days/week.
- Academic awards ceremonies are held at the end of every quarter, recognizing student accomplishments in academics, attendance, and team competitions. All parents receive an invitation to attend.
- Students may qualify for the Middle School Hall of Fame on a quarterly basis. The qualifications for this are based not only on academics, but also effort, responsibility, and behavior. All middle school teachers provide input for all students.
- Special education team is included in all planning.
- Students have the opportunity to accelerate in math in 8th grade.

Developmental Responsiveness

- A strong guidance department, Home Run program, and support provided by Hamilton County Community Services, allows the district to meet the emotional needs of our students.
- Support Groups include Girls Group, 6th grade lunch boy's/girl's group, and Banana Splits.
- Color teams are a multi-grade level structure used to build social and study skills, self esteem and academic success. An advisor serves as a mentor for each color team and stays with that team of students throughout the middle school years.
- Continuous communication is accomplished through email, classroom wiki pages, and a parent portal on our student management system. This allows for well-informed households.
- Interscholastic sports-Modified for grades 7-9 and elementary programs include grade 6.
- All students participate in art and music.
- Best Week Ever is held each Monday during advisory. The purpose is to provide a review of the previous week's topics in each subject area.
- Town government allows students to attain an active role in middle school and district decisions.

Social Equity

- Special education students are integrated into the classroom along with support staff.
- Color Team activities provide the opportunity for a safe, competitive environment, which stimulates a sense of pride in overall performance.
- The annual Middle school trip, along with a mixture of field trips and Arts in Education Programs help provide exposure to more diverse cultures.
- Because we are a small town, the school is the center of the community. As a result, our concerts, sporting events, and other activities are well attended.
- Small class sizes focus on individualized attention and differentiated instruction.
- Teachers are actively involved in the community, which provides a strong school/community tie.
- Indian Lake is recognized for its zero tolerance of any bullying behaviors. Students are involved in a Respect Club.
- Smartboard technology is available in all classrooms.
- Other technology is also used during instruction in the school's computer lab, distance learning classroom, and laptop cart system.
- Child study teams are utilized when the need arises to support the student with any need that may arise.

Organizational Support

- Use of data to drive instruction provides concrete information on all students.
- Administration works closely with teachers and staff during team meeting times, held two and three times per week.
- A 60 minute advisory every day allows for teachers to assess student learning for the day and allows for communication with the home through each student's learning log. This advisory is split into three-20 minute segments-Meet with color team advisor to check learning logs, academic labs, and Fun Zone/Academic Study Hall.
- Teachers continue with professional development through attendance at conferences and Superintendent Day workshops with other area schools. Because Indian Lake and other area school districts are small rural schools, we have developed a relationship with our neighboring districts to

form the “True North”. This allows for teachers to meet with fellow peers and allows for the districts to be able to offer professional development activities we would not otherwise be able to do.

- Our middle school is part of a PreK-12 school with a total student enrollment of 126. This allows for a special bond between our students, staff, families and community.
- Frequent communications with various community stakeholders including PTSO, monthly newsletter, 5-week progress reports, quarterly reports, teacher conferences, parent portal, in addition to frequent phone and email conversations.
- Indian Lake offers a strong Mentor Program for new teachers.
- The district offers strong support for summer professional development.
- There are continuous modifications applied to curriculum maps to best present the Common Core Standards. A special emphasis on integration of ELA Common Core Standards in all content areas.