School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence
- Named # 1 Middle School in New York State and # 2 in United States by Niche
- Data-driven instruction based on benchmark assessments in every subject
- Participation in accelerated courses open to any student
- Support classes available for focused and intensive instruction in “gap” areas in each core subject by a teacher certified in the subject and special ed
- Academic Intervention Service (AIS) is data driven and monitored using RtIM Direct
- Study Island used as a tool for remediation and enrichment in all core subjects
- Extra-help available during lunch and after school / cross grade tutoring with H.S. students
- Use of Standards Based Grading and standards-based report card clearly communicate performance to parents and students
- Staff is organized into Faculty Study Teams for ongoing book study
- Faculty meetings are back channeled through the use of Todaysmeet, Edmodo and Twitter.
- Monthly Lunch and Learns encourage informal learning amongst teachers on a variety of topics.
- Interdisciplinary teams collaborate with library/media specialists, art teachers, and technology
- New teacher induction program with emphasis on the Essential Elements of a Standards Focused MS
- Inclusive special education model that utilizes co-teaching, differentiated instruction, and high level student interest to promote student success
- MST and Art push-in specialists support interdisciplinary curriculum projects

(Continued)
Developmental Responsiveness

- Elective exploratories (I.E. Videography, Competitive Science, Mock Trial, Project History, Little Chefs) allow students to pursue personal interests
- Social and Emotional Literacy Competencies (C.A.S.E.L.) foundation for S.E.L. program
- JMS has implemented the Olweus Bully Prevention Program. Extensive training was provided to staff, students, and the community.
- Adopted the Social Emotional Literacy Competencies developed by C.A.S.E.L. as well as monthly themes that foster character education.
- Counselors loop with their students. Teacher on each interdisciplinary team serves as a Student/Team Advisor to liaison with support personnel and administrators and to act as an adult mentor to students.
- Lunchtime Quality Circles facilitated by trained staff in which students discuss bullying issues
- Health instruction in grades six, seven, and eight
- Full time school psychologist, C.S.W. and guidance personnel develop groups to meet student needs
- Students earn V.A.L.U.E. (Volunteer Activities Leave Us Enriched) credits for community service
- Mentoring at-risk students in partnership with Nassau County Bar Association
- High school students mentor and assist in 6th grade transition through Project A.I.M
- Regular Principal's Coffee Hours and weekly parent newsletters keep parents informed
- Community service electives offered grades 6 – 8
- Every teacher posts assignments and important class materials online.

Social Equity

- Personal Best program downplays competition in favor of personal growth and development
- Personal Best Award ceremonies every marking period to recognize students’ progress
- Welcome Night for new families and regular Principal Coffee Hours encourage family communication
- School-wide participation in National Mix-it-Up Day, No Name Calling Week, National Coming-Out Day and National Day of Silence
- Student voice incorporated in decision-making through SDM and Student Council
- Olweus Survey used as school climate evaluative tool
- In-Service courses: Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity (S.E.E.D.: Wellesley College)
- Active member of the Nassau County Anti-Bias Consortium
- Gay-Straight Alliance club and sponsor of Long Island Forum for LGBT Issues

Organizational Support

- Student Team Advisors for every interdisciplinary team serve as liaisons to encore teachers, Learning Center staff, administration and parents
- Weekly meetings for Social Emotional Literacy Cabinet and Student Team Advisors
- Monthly meetings for Site Based Team, Middle School Cabinet, PTSA Executive Board, Jericho Teachers Association and Administration
- Board of Education supports teaming to allow for extended learning periods and increased electives
- Teams have flexible block scheduling for interdisciplinary projects
- Professional growth opportunities in a variety of in-service offerings and conferences
- Weekly faculty and curriculum meetings support vertical and horizontal articulation
- District level competitive Research and Development Curriculum grant program supports collaborative planning
- Member of the Nassau County Middle-Level Principal’s Association, New York State Middle School Association, National Middle School Association, New England League of Middle Schools, Nassau County Anti-Bias Consortium and many other organizations supporting middle-level education