

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS SCHOOLS TO WATCH

MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR’S GUIDE

Jericho Middle School



Designated in 2009, 2012, 2015

Jericho Middle School • Jericho UFSD • Nassau County
• New York State • Principal: Donald F. Gately •
School Address: 99 Cedar Swamp Road, Jericho NY
11753 • Phone (516) 203-3600,
E-mail DGately@jerichoschools.org
Website: <http://ms.jerichoschools.org/>

2013-14 School Statistics

(NYS Report Card)

Community: Size/characteristics Suburban NY
Enrollment: 675
Grade Levels: 6-8
School Schedule: 9 period day- 2 day cycle

Student Demographics

55% Male
45% Female
3% Hispanic/Latino
51% White
0% American Indian/Alaskan Native
2% African American
0% Filipino
43% Asian/Pacific Islander
12% Students with Disabilities
3% Free/Red. Lunch/Econ. Disadvantaged
2% English Learners

2012 AYP: ELA 183	Math 191
2013 AYP: ELA 173	Math 180
2014 AYP: ELA 173	Math 180

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 Today'smeet, 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