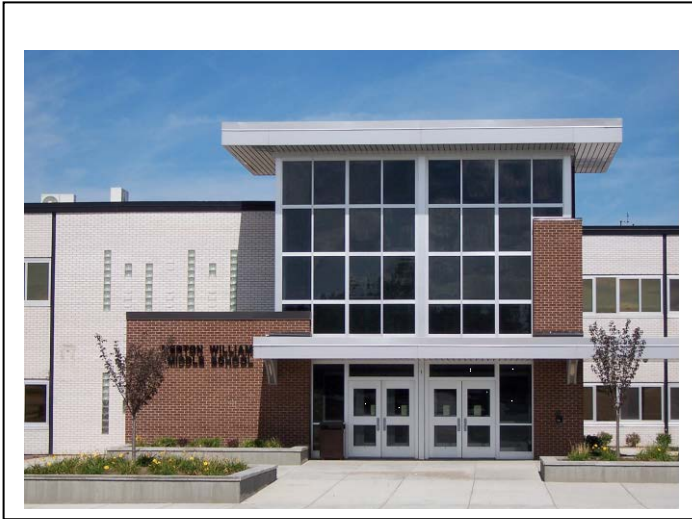




Essential Elements Schools to Watch Model School – Visitor’s Guide

Merton Williams Middle School



Re-Designated in 2013: Merton Williams Middle School
Hilton Central School District, Monroe County, New York

Principal: Tim Dobbertin, 200 School Lane, Hilton, NY
14468 585-392-1000ext. 3099, tdobbertin@hilton.k12.ny.us

School Statistics

Community: Rural/Suburban district northwest of Rochester, New York
Enrollment: 674 students
Grade Levels: 7th and 8th grade
Schedule: Rotating one-hour block schedule with six periods per day

Student Demographics

48% Male
52% Female
2.8% Hispanic/Latino
92.4% White
<1% American Indian/Alaskan Native
1.3% African American
1.7% Asian/Pacific Islander
<1% Multiracial
8% Students with Disabilities
23% Free/Reduced Lunch/Econ. Disadvantaged
<1% English Language Learners

2008-09 AYP: Math 197 ELA 188
2009-10 AYP: Math 193 ELA 178
2010-11 AYP: Math 176 ELA 156

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- District adopted Instructional Framework based on Differentiated Instruction and Dimensions of Learning which guides all instructional initiatives and decisions.
- Currently in first year implementing International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program which encompasses grades 5-10.
- Interdisciplinary grade level teams with teachers looping in English, Math Science, LOTE and Social Studies
- Accelerated Math, Spanish, Living Environment and Earth Science provides students who are ready for Regents-level curriculum. Enrollment has risen in each of the last three years.
- Extensive opportunities for professional development: district and building based, tailored for individual department needs, focused on areas such as Differentiated Instruction, Dimensions of Learning, Concept-Based Learning, Literacy, 6+1 Traits of Writing, and a wide array of instructional technology.
- Multiple computer labs and mobile computer carts, Smart Boards, Notebook computers, Apple Computers, Elmos, projectors and hand-held devices available for student use; MP3 players, i-Pods and i-Touches, digital cameras, Flip video recorders. Currently piloting full-class and team IPAD applications.
- Tiered approach to Academic Intervention Services; ELA and Math Skills Lab classes, Literacy classes, Wilson Reading, Learning Lab, Resource Room, 504 services, consultant teachers, and co-teaching classrooms.
- Clear, consistent building-wide PBIS expectations: Be Responsible, Respectful and Productive
- Common department assessments for formative and summative purposes

Developmental Responsiveness

- Award-Winning Counseling Program including extensive individual and group counseling
- Over 30 extracurricular activities including Student Council, Model UN, National Junior Honor Society, Peer Mediators, Math Club, Environmental Club, Tech Club, Broadway Show Night, Fitness Intramurals, Drama Club, Spanish/French Club, Yearbook, Bookstore, Snack Shop, Modified Sports
- College and career exploration in FACS and Health classes
- P.B.I.S. (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports) fully implemented
- Use of student planners, homework Wikis, homework hotlines, teacher websites and blogs
- Wide range of supports available for students: nurse, attendance clerk, social worker, psychologist, youth assistant, community counselors
- Transition program and activities for incoming 7th graders and outgoing 8th graders
- Active Student Council organization with elected officers and student-nominated Peer Mediation program
- Team and grade level activity days, Spirit Week, College Day, Outsiders Day, Soldier Care Packages, Teddy Bear Project, Field Day

Social Equity

- All students have an opportunity to participate in accelerated classes, after school clubs and activities
- Multiple recognition opportunities for students: Student of the Month, Good Character Awards, Art Show, Musical competitions, Honor Roll, National Junior Honor Society, Honor Roll, Fall and Spring Festivals.
- Inclusive approach to Special Education with a full continuum of support: consultant and co-taught classes; resource rooms, small supportive study halls, text level appropriate Literature Circles
- Varied approaches to instruction: Differentiation, Habits of Mind, Inquiry, Learning Styles, Project-Based Learning
- Heterogeneously grouped teams include students with special needs and accelerated classes
- Life Long Fitness approach to Physical Education: swimming, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, rock climbing, in-line skating, mountain biking
- Technology available and accessible to all students: books on tape, smart board software, pod-casting, audacity software, computer labs, digital cameras and video recorders, i-Pods, i-Touches and IPADS, laptop computers, Wikis and blogs

Organizational Support

- Three teams at each grade level with common planning time for interdisciplinary planning and co-teaching opportunities
- Team classes located within the same hallway
- School Improvement Team uses the *Essential Elements of Standard Focused Middle Level Schools* as their lens to focus their work on achieving district/building mission, building/department SMART goals
- Rotating schedule with one-hour blocks of instructional time and six periods a day
- Team leaders and department liaisons to help promote and facilitate building growth
- Interactive staff meetings focused on professional growth
- Multiple communication tools in use: homework hotline, homework Wiki, building and teacher websites, monthly newsletters emailed to parents, quarterly parent meetings, 5 and 10-week reports, online access for student and parents to grade books, Grandfriends' Breakfast, Parent Visitation Day
- Strong New Teacher Induction program and Mentor program, including required staff development classes, summer workshops and monthly meetings
- Collaborative relationships with local colleges and universities to prepare and recruit new teachers
- Transitions programs and committees in place to enhance students' progression from elementary to middle school and middle school to high school
- Professional development opportunities to support curriculum, instruction and assessment, special needs students, instructional technology, social emotional needs of young adolescents