



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

South Orangetown Middle School



Designated in 2015

District - South Orangetown CSD County - Rockland
State - NY Principal – Karen Tesik
School Address - 160 Van Wyck Road, Blauvelt, NY 10913
Phone (845) 680-1101 Email - ktesik@socsd.org
Website - <http://www.socsd.org/soms.htm>

School Statistics

(Source: Enter name of data source for stats listed below.)

Community: Suburban/NYS
Enrollment: 806
Grade Levels: 6, 7, 8
School Schedule: 9-Period Day / 6-Day Cycle

Student Demographics

49% Male
51% Female
10% Hispanic/Latino
70% White
<1% American Indian/Alaskan Native
2% African American
<1% Filipino
9% Asian/Pacific Islander
10% Students with Disabilities
9% Free/Reduced Lunch/Econ. Disadvantaged
2% English Learners

2010 AYP: ELA 189 Math 194
2011 AYP: ELA 173 Math 184
2012 AYP: ELA 178 Math 176

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Named NYSED Commissioner’s Reward School – High Performance
- Awarded one of the 2014-2015 NYS Reward School Grants which led to the opening of a 3-D Maker Space and over 100 hours of curriculum development to further integrate technology in all areas
- Open Enrollment for Integrated Algebra, Earth Science, Design and Drawing for Production and Studio Art offered for High School (HS) credit
- All students have the opportunity to earn HS credit in World Languages
- Support classes available for focused and intensive instruction in “gap” areas in ELA and Math
- Extra help available during lunch and after school / cross grade tutoring with HS students
- Interdisciplinary teams collaborate daily and meet with library/media specialists and Explore teachers to foster greater inter-disciplinary connections
- Inclusive special education model that utilizes consulting teaching, co-teaching and differentiated instruction to promote student success in the mainstream
- All classrooms focused on increasing student choice by implementing the principals of a “Learner-Active Technology Infused Classroom”
- Instructional Rounds used to gather evidence of student engagement in the 4C skill set and professional development of staff
- Challenge Lab Class, Virtual High School Courses, Double Acceleration in various subjects offered to meet the needs and interests of all students

Developmental Responsiveness

- School Support Team meets weekly to address and manage social and emotional needs of students
- Individual and Group Counseling provided by School Psychologists and School Counselors
- 3B's of South Orangetown Middle School (SOMS) - Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Prepared – Classroom lessons clearly discuss expected behaviors
- Student Voice is celebrated through participation in hiring process, student surveys regarding school culture and programs, Principal's Committee open to all students to bring ideas and concerns directly to the Principal
- High quality clubs to support all interests and a clear process to bring new clubs to SOMS
- Numerous activities to celebrate and ease the transition to and from SOMS.
- Daily Team Meeting Period dedicated to discussing students, inter-disciplinary connections and professional development
- Field Trips, Dances, STEAM Fair, "Rock the Point", SOMS Family STEM Challenge, Character Education Assemblies are offered to support social and academic growth of all students
- Guidance Curriculum taught at all grade levels by School Counselors.
- Online Parent/Student Portal
- Students co-led Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences
- CST and RTI Process that focuses on students' strengths to support academic and social emotional growth
- All staff are conversant about the Essential Elements of Middle Level Education

Social Equity

- All students surveyed in November to identify one adult in the building they can turn to for help. Any student unable to identify an adult is then "invisibly mentored" by one staff member.
- 1:1 Chromebook Initiative in grade 8 for all students
- All teams are heterogeneously grouped
- After-school homework center available for all students
- Peer tutoring is available for all students free of charge
- ELL students supported through ESL teacher, TA and through a peer mentor program
- Special Education students identified in need are supported by participation in "Socialization in our Schools" program
- "You Make A Difference Awards" and "Student of the Month Awards" recognize outstanding citizenship, attitude and effort

Organizational Support

- Strong vision with yearly established and agreed upon goals
- Theory of Action that supports goals and related research to the action staff will take to improve
- Extended Leadership Team – Teacher leaders work collaboratively on achievement of goals and program development
- Students on interdisciplinary teams that have a daily common meeting period.
- Staff committed to professional development in numerous forms including workshops, book studies, instructional rounds, etc.
- 1:1 Chromebook Initiative for all 8th grade students and emerging BYOD program
- Growth Mindset shared and researched by all staff members
- Numerous Community partnerships fostering a positive view of the adolescent in our community
- Teacher mentor program in place to support all new staff
- Frequent Communication with families via Parent Portal, E-mail blasts, and Teacher and School websites, Daily Announcements emailed home.