School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

**Academic Excellence**

- Exploratory Program is standards based focused on life applications of literacy and numeracy
- Planetarium Science gives students exposure to astronomy in our planetarium
- Social studies teachers use simulations for students to experience history
- 50% of 8th graders enrolled in high school Integrated Algebra
- 35% of 8th graders enrolled in high school Biology (Living Environment)
- 100% of 8th graders enrolled in high school level 1 of French or Spanish
- 30% of 8th graders enrolled in high school Studio Art
- All teachers available for extra help Monday - Thursday
- Scheduled academic intervention classes available for students
- Homework clinic available to students from 3 – 5 PM in the school library Monday - Thursday
Developmental Responsiveness

- Well-developed 5th to 6th grade transition program for students and parents
- School code of conduct is presented to all students and reviewed at home and signed by parents
- Many counseling groups are run through the pupil personnel department (PPS)
- Teacher mentors are trained for one-on-one interaction with students-at-risk
- Well-developed district wide bully prevention program (Peaceworks)
- Safety Personal Safety Program (SPSP) – Multi-dimensional comprehensive safety program
- Peer Mediation program
- Peer Leadership program
- PPS runs instructional support team (IST) meetings for students in need of support
- Students in grade 8 are given a mock interview by central office administration, building administration, and business partners
- The building has academic integrity guidelines that are signed by students and parents
- Every day begins with advisory with a 13:1 student/adult ratio
- There are many after school clubs and activities as well as interscholastic sports
- The principal has established a parent e-mail network to keep parents informed

Social Equity

- We have a very low suspension rate of .005%
- Grade 6 and 7 classes are heterogeneous
- Grade 8 classes are heterogeneous except accelerated classes (no honors classes)
- All students have equal access to after school activities
- All 8th graders have access to the 4 day/3 night Frost Valley Outdoor Education trip
- All 7th graders have access to the 2 day/1 night Boston Education trip
- All students have access to interscholastic athletics. There is at least one non-cut sport per season
- The school runs Cultural Awareness programs
- The guidance counselor loops with the students from grades 7 - 8
- The site-based-team is very active and an excellent avenue for teacher/parent communication
- Most teachers or teams have web sites
- All teachers have e-mail addresses for communication with home and school

Organizational Support

- Common planning time for grade level academic teachers and teams
- Common planning time for Inclusion teams
- Implementation of an online curriculum mapping program
- Teachers are compensated for curriculum writing over the summer
- The district, the building, and the Sayville Teachers Association (STA) run new teacher orientations in August
- There is a new teacher mentor program
- Teams have flexible block time for interdisciplinary projects
- Staff development is offered during the school day, after the school day, and on Saturdays
- The district is focused on staff development regarding differentiation of instruction and the integration of technology into curriculum