



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

### Garden City Middle School



**Designated in 2011, 2014, 2017**

Garden City School District, Nassau County, NY  
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### School Statistics

*(Source: NYS School Report Card, STW Application)*

Community: Size/characteristics  
Enrollment: 1,004  
Grade Levels: 6-8  
School Schedule: 9 Period Flexible Block

#### Student Demographics

49% Male  
51% Female  
4% Hispanic/Latino  
90% White  
0% American Indian/Alaskan Native  
1% African American  
0% Filipino  
4% Asian/Pacific Islander  
11% Students with Disabilities  
2% Free/Red. Lunch/Econ. Disadvantaged  
0% English Learners

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

### Academic Excellence

- 100% of students taking our Math and Earth Science accelerated classes pass these regents. Many achieve above mastery levels.
- Spec. Ed. students achieve at comparable levels with their peers across the state.
- National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, NYS Gap Reducing School, NYS Model School for Special Education, Validated Special Education Practice (co-teaching and support)
- Daily common meeting times for teamed teachers and flexible block schedule.
- Subject Specific Academic Support
- Elective program
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade Study Skills
- AIS programs
- Quarterly departmental Benchmarks
- Curricula across the subject areas that are aligned to state standards.

### **Developmental Responsiveness**

- Extensive programs in reading, speech, fundamental skills, PT, OT, homework centers for students that need additional supports.
- Teaming Models/Co-Taught Classes on every grade level. Spec. Ed teachers on teams.
- No honors classes- open enrollment for accelerated programs. Other classes are heterogeneously grouped.
- UbD lesson planning, Bloom's Taxonomy
- Interdisciplinary created thematic units and projects during teamed block times.
- Extra Curricular clubs and activities.
- P.T.A. Health Committee and the Arts in Ed programs.
- Grade Level Advisors, Student Response Team, Crisis Intervention Team, Instructional Support Team, Grade Level Guidance Counselors and Social Worker.
- Inclusion of Life Skills Classes with their developing peers within the school day.
- Service awards
- Daily home base program which allows students to share society and social concerns.
- Home Base Leaders for every grade level in every advisory class.

### **Social Equity**

- Kindness a Day Challenges.
- Best Buddies program, Social Skills Club.
- Grade Level Student Council- open enrollment.
- Grade level assemblies – bullying, cyber-bullying, multicultural awareness.
- Self Assessment Surveys –completed by various stakeholder groups to determine students' need in the social/emotional domains.
- Anti-Bullying program- Anti-Bullying Task Force, ABC club.
- Sports – intramural and competitive sports offered to students, sportsmanship awards.
- GC Cares program.
- No One Eats Alone program.

### **Organizational Support**

- Teachers are vested in Middle Level Philosophy.
- Teachers have opportunities to run faculty meetings or take on leadership roles.
- Low teacher turnover rate.
- Uniform Grading policies.
- APPR options.
- Self reflection, best practices and continuous improvement permeates the culture as evidenced by teachers who aren't threatened by change within the school.
- G.C.M.S. is designated as a mentor school for at risk schools.
- Data driven instruction and practice (BOCES warehouse data).
- High faculty volunteerism to chair/participate on various committees.