

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS SCHOOLS TO WATCH

MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE

Glens Falls Middle School



Designated in 2009

Redesignated 2012 & 2015;

[Glens Falls Middle School](#) • Glens Falls City School District • Warren County • New York State

- Principal: Christopher Reed
- School Address: 20 Quade St., Glens Falls, NY 12801
- Phone: (518) 793-3418,
- E-mail: CReed@gfsd.org
- Website: <http://www.gfsd.org/GFMS/>

School Statistics

(Source: School Report Card, – 2013-2014)

Community: Pop–14,700
Small City School Enrollment: 601
Grade Levels: 5-8
School Schedule: Flexible Block

Student Demographics (2013/2014)

50%	Male
50%	Female
3%	Hispanic/Latino
88%	White
1%	American Indian/Alaskan Native
5%	African American
1%	Filipino
2%	Asian/Pacific Islander
16%	Students with Disabilities
49%	Free/Red. Lunch/Econ. Disadvantaged
0%	English Learners

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- All grades, K – 12, are curriculum mapped which is formally revised on at least an annual basis
- Extensive district-wide professional development with three full days required outside of the school day (brain-based instruction, differentiated instruction. Common Core Learning Standards etc.)
- Strong interdisciplinary team structure provides students access to all core teachers during an alternate day study lab
- Consistent NYS assessment scores reflect teacher's ongoing commitment to utilizing data from a variety of formative and summative assessments to inform instruction
- Benchmarks, quarterly assessments and progress monitoring track student performance and provide data for analysis of instruction
- ELA and Math Academic Intervention Services (AIS) is data driven and guided by STAR assessment results
- Students take advantage of opportunities to accelerate in math, science and foreign language
- One half hour extension of school day on Tuesday and Thursday for extra help
- Faculty maintain personal web pages on District's website for greater student/parent/teacher communication
- Frequent and relevant field trips, as well as an after-school intramural club and athletic program
- After school Homework Club at each grade level is a non-threatening means of providing assistance

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Developmental Responsiveness

- Strong teaming program in place which provides endless opportunities for interdisciplinary instruction, common planning time for teachers, and alternate day study lab
- Morning Advocacy program conducted daily
- Strong counseling program serves students in 6th through 8th grades
- Intervention Review Board (IRB) is a committee of professional staff who convene weekly to discuss and develop plans of action for students in crisis
- High quality clubs in place for extracurricular needs e.g. Strategic Games, Writing Club, Chess Club, Builder's Club, SADD, Yearbook etc.
- Well articulated plan for transitioning 3 elementary schools into one middle school (from grade 4 – 5) and middle school to high school (8-9).
- Daily team meetings conducted for all teams including core, foreign language, special education and grade level counselor
- Very active and involved PTSA
- Active student governments at both the team and school-wide levels
- Individual and group counseling provided by counselors, social worker and psychologist
- Two social workers, 1.5 school psychologists and 2 school counselors work individually and in groups to address student needs

Social Equity

- All students select a go-to adult in the building who will advocate, intervene, counsel, befriend
- Student achievement and mastery of skills is technologically centered and teachers embrace the use of technology in instruction
- All student scores and grades are posted on Parent Portal
- Numerous acceleration/honors options are available to students who are able to benefit from same
- Fully implemented PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) program designed to teach positive and appropriate behaviors utilizing a common vocabulary, philosophy and experiences
- Embrace a “zero tolerance toward bullying” culture and strive to ensure a safe school environment
- School Counselors loop with students in grades 6 - 8
- All students take a full array of Unified Arts courses (Art, Music, C/C Skills, Health, Technology)
- Inclusive instruction in all areas featuring the co-teaching model
- Prevalent use of technology (ELMOs, Smartboards, LCD projectors etc.) utilizing abundant laptop carts for students in 5th and 6th grade with a one-to-one Chromebook implementation for all 7th and 8th graders.
- Integrated units of instruction feature frequent interdisciplinary instructional opportunities
- Student Recognition Dinner three times per year recognizes outstanding citizenship, attitude and effort

Organizational Support

- Strong district commitment to professional development includes three days of summer training
- Numerous connections with community partners e.g. Hyde Art Collection Museum, Adirondack Theatre Festival, Sister City School in Saga City, Japan, HI partnership, Glens Falls Police Department (DARE), YMCA (after school program) etc.
- All staff are conversant about the Essential Elements of Middle Level Education. EE posters are displayed prominently in all middle school rooms
- Effective and well-run new teacher mentor program
- Frequent communication with various community stakeholders, including families via, Parent Portal, PTSA newsletter, 5 week progress reports, quarterly report cards, quarterly district newsletter, e-mail, teacher websites, phone and numerous parent/team conferences