



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

### Pleasantville Middle School



#### Designated in 2012

District: **Pleasantville** County: **Westchester** State: **NY**

Principal: **Vivian Ossowski**

School Address: **40 Romer Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570**

Phone: **(914)741-1451** Email: [ossowskiv@pville.k12.ny.us](mailto:ossowskiv@pville.k12.ny.us)

Website: <http://ms.pleasantvilleschools.com/>

### School Statistics

(Source: BEDS Day 2010 Data; 2010 AYP Report)

Community: Suburban Residential

Enrollment: 575

Grade Levels: 5-8

School Schedule: 9 Period Day

#### Student Demographics:

53% Male

47% Female

07% Hispanic/Latino

85% White

0% American Indian/Alaskan Native

02% African American

0% Filipino

06% Asian/Pacific Islander

16% Students with Disabilities

06% Free/Red. Lunch/Econ. Disadvantaged

>01% English Learners

2009 AYP: ELA-194 & Math-199

2010 AYP: ELA-194 & Math-198

2011 AYP: ELA-179 & Math-192

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

### Academic Excellence

- Academic Rigor is a Priority with Clear Student Expectations
- High Test Scores on NYS Assessments
- Accelerated Math, Science & Foreign Language Classes
- Foreign Language Begins in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Interdisciplinary Instruction through Project-Based Learning
- Technology Integration (e.g., Mobile Laptop Carts, Interactive SMART Boards, MP3 Players, etc.)
- Differentiated Instruction
- Formative Assessments
- Aligned Curriculum to CCLS Through Comprehensive Curriculum Mapping
- Formal Annual Curriculum Map Reviews
- Integration of Literacy Strategies Across Content-Areas
- Extended Learning Opportunities (e.g., Math Counts, Lego Robotics, etc.)
- Math, Science, Technology Course Offering (e.g., STEM-Based Project Learning)
- Edible Garden Curriculum-Based Connections (e.g., Sustainability Curriculum)
- Built-In Flex Period
- Tier 2 Academic Intervention Support Services
- Learning Walks
- Commitment to Professional Development Teacher Opportunities
- Research-Based Best Practice Faculty Meeting Exchange
- Vertical 5-8 Strategy Instruction (e.g., Cornell Notes, Word Walls, etc.)
- Relevant and Enriching Field Trips to Augment Instruction

## **Developmental Responsiveness**

- Strong Alliances Between Faculty & Families Supporting the Young Adolescent
  - Guidance Counselors Serve as Adult Mentors (e.g., Counselors Loop with Students)
  - Group and Individual Counseling by Psychologists and Guidance Counselors (e.g., Rap Room, etc.)
  - Formal RTI School-Wide Process (e.g., Child Study Team)
  - Formally Trained PBIS Team
  - Student Run Anti-Bullying Program (e.g., Panther Pride Unified)
  - Homebase Advisor/Advisee Program
  - Interdisciplinary Approaches to Real World Issues (e.g., Global Awareness Symposium)
  - Home & Careers (e.g., Career Day, Sustainable Education, etc.)
  - Active Student Government (e.g., Peer leadership opportunities)
  - Variety of Extracurricular Clubs & Activities (e.g., Performing Arts, LEGO Robotics, etc.)
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## **Social Equity**

- Fully-Inclusive Heterogeneous Classes Supported by Staff
  - Walk-In-My Shoes Program
  - Universal Screenings (e.g., Screenings Administered Three Times Per Year)
  - Assistive Technologies to Meet Individual Learning Needs
  - Cultural Awareness through Interdisciplinary Instruction (e.g. Passport to Americas Project, etc.)
  - Self-Assessment Surveys (e.g., Anti-Bullying Program, Panther Pride Unified Program)
  - Flexible Grouping
  - Leveled Libraries (e.g., Grade 5)
  - Clinton Street Senior Citizen Center Partnership (e.g., Senior Citizen Tea, etc.)
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## **Organizational Support**

- District-Wide and Building Mission Statement
- District-Wide and Building-Level Annual Goals
- All Staff are Knowledgeable about the Essential Elements of Middle Level Education (e.g., EE Posters Displayed in All Classrooms)
- Collaborative Model for Curriculum Evaluation
- RTI-Problem-Solving Team Meetings
- Faculty Meetings (e.g., Offer Team Building and Staff Development Opportunities)
- Inter-Building Department Meetings
- Leadership Team (e.g., Common, Regular Meeting Time)
- Professional Development (e.g., Commitment to In-Service and Turnkey Training)
- School Website (e.g., Communication Tool)
- E-School Data Parent Portal
- Building Level Teams (e.g., Advisory Committee, Anti-Bully Committee, Scheduling Committee, etc.)
- Parent Teacher Association (e.g., Involved in All Aspects of the School such as: Edible Garden; Health & Safety; Earth Day; Cultural Arts; Western & Eastern Hemisphere Day; etc.)
- Partnerships with Local Universities