

## EISENHOWER MIDDLE SCHOOL



### 2018-2019 SCHOOL STATISTICS

Designated in 2016

Re-Designated in 2019

Community Size - Suburban

School Enrollment - 702

Grade Levels - 6-8

School Calendar - traditional

Free & Reduced Lunch - 1.4%

English Learners - 0.56%

Students with Disabilities - 14.3%

Wyckoff Public Schools

344 Calvin Ct

Tel 201-848-5750

Principal - Christopher Iasiello

<https://www.wyckoffps.org/Domain/64>

### School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

#### Academic Excellence

- Eisenhower Middle School has consistently demonstrated excellence in academic achievement by outperforming over 90% of districts in NJ on standardized assessments such as the PARCC exam.

- Students are engaged in a rigorous mathematics coursework as they are challenged to apply conceptual thinking in our adopted Math In Focus program. All students have the ability to take high school level courses such as Algebra and Geometry through an accelerated track. Teachers create and administer trimester benchmark assessments to determine how students'

### 2018-2019 School Demographics

- African American - 1.13%**
- Asian - 8.65%**
- Caucasian - 84.6%**
- Filipino - 0%**
- Hispanic - 4.82%**
- Native American - 0.42%**
- Pacific Islander - 0%**
- Other - 0.28%**
- Two or More - 0%**

skills are developing and how best to intervene when students show greater need of skill reinforcement.

- Language Arts teachers provide authentic learning environments through a Reader's and Writer's Workshop model. Students work in book clubs as they investigate literature with their grade-level peers and identify key themes that transcend genres. Thematic units such as coming of age, culture, memoirs, and persuasive writing provide students with the blank canvas in which they can utilize the learned criteria of an author's craft as they create, edit, and publish work.
- To better align with the Common Core Standards, all social studies and science teachers implement performance based writing assessments to challenging students to think critically when using a myriad of sources. Literacy strategies and skills are taught to enhance a students' ability in working with non-fiction and complex texts.
- Students at Eisenhower Middle School are able to choose from three world languages in grades 6-8 including Spanish, French, and Italian. An immersion approach to language acquisition is used to increase our students' ability to communicate effectively and to become more fluent in the target language during their middle school years.
- A number of cycle and exploratory courses offer students with a rich and rewarding curricula experience. Students are offered a myriad of 36-day elective courses including fine art, home economics, digital citizenship, coding and computer concepts, engineering and design, robotics and design, prototyping and replicating, multimedia design, STEM Challenge, yearbook, music engineering, and ETV (Eisenhower television studio). Also, most students participate in three trimester enrichment courses, which included financial literacy, performance literacy and STEM extension coursework.
- All Eisenhower teachers take part in interdisciplinary planning, instruction, and projects in which students are challenged to make connections between the content areas and to parallels in their learning.

## **Developmental Responsiveness**

- Eisenhower Middle School has implements a successful Advisory Program in which students learn advocacy, team building, and a sense of community. Seventy small advisory groups exist at EMS in which one teacher meets bi-monthly with a mix grade group of 11-13 students. Each summer an Advisory Committee reflects on the programs success and rewrites our curriculum, which is shared on a Google Site. Staff can contribute to lesson ideas and themes through this shared platform. Relevant adolescent topics such as bullying, determining self and identity, loss, stress, and developing friendships are often discussed in this 35-minute period. Responsive Classroom tenets are used to shape our overall program.
- Mindfulness sessions are offered weekly to students by a trained teacher to assist students in managing school and life stress.
- Five service-based organizations are thriving at EMS including Student Council, React, Relay for Life, Animal Welfare Club, and MAD4Kids. Students develop a sense of empathy as they work to improve school culture, assist those who are less fortunate, and work to make a difference in

their school communities. Students are empowered to bring about substantial and sustainable change to their surroundings.

- Three guidance counselors loop with a grade level and provide class lessons, social skills groups, conflict resolution sessions, and student crisis management.
- Every three years EMS hosts a 3R's Day in which over 30 speakers spend the day sharing their stories of adversity and resiliency. Presenters have included Eric LeGrand, the Uni-Bombers Brother, Holocaust survivors, Mark Barden father of Daniel who was lost at Sandy Hook Elementary School, and an Oklahoma City bombing survivor.

## **Social Equity**

- At EMS, school personnel are dedicated to the learning of all students. Differentiation of instruction is widespread and teachers believe in progress grading philosophies as well as support Re Do's and Re Takes of assessments. The idea of student choice is at the forefront of lesson designs in all content areas.
- EMS implements a TIEE (team intervention, enrichment, and extension) period that allows for students to receive focused remediation during the school day. Students who do not require intensive academic assistance can advocate taking an extra elective course or can mentor other students who are struggling academically. Also, students can explore an area of studies they are interested in which they may not have been able to study during their normally scheduled classes. TIEE meets for 35 minutes daily. It is both teacher led as well as student led as both parties work together in developing an individualized learning experience.
- Our middle school offers a wide array of supports for a diverse group of learners. Special education placements exist primarily as in-class support sections with fewer resource small group sections offered as needed. General education academic support courses sit alongside language arts and math classes in the form of supplemental reading and math lab. For high achieving learners, levels exist in math and language arts courses in 7th and 8th grades only. A gifted learning program is in place known as Wyckoff Extended Learning.

## **Organizational Support**

- Three core academic teams exist per grade level and meet at least three days per week to discuss students and to meet with parents. Shared assessment calendars are posted in team hallways communicating major assignments and reducing overloading of major assessments on a single day. A shared Google Doc is used to track student information so that teams can be as responsive as possible.
- EMS is a true personal learning community in which grade level content teams meet twice a week to collaborate on common assessments, unit plans, and projects. PLC's review students' achievement data, make placement decisions, and act as curriculum leaders in our building.
- EMS implements a true 1:1 computing model distributing Chromebooks to every student. We

embrace Google Apps for Education framework, as students and staff collaborate in a digital world as assignments are both assigned and collected in the cloud. Google Classroom serves as our LMS and keeps parents connected to what students are working on and learning.

- Parent communication is paramount at Eisenhower Middle School. Weekly eblasts using Constant Contact are distributed, Twitter Feeds and Facebook pages are used to disseminate vital information, and an online student management system is used to maximize transparency for each student's academic progress.