



Pennsylvania Don Eichhorn Schools: Schools to Watch

Canonsburg Middle School



**Designated in 2011 ~ Re-Designated in 2014
Re-Designated II in 2017**

Canonsburg Middle School • Canon-McMillan School District •
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2014-17 School Statistics

(Sources: PowerSchool Student Information System;
paschoolperformance.org)

Community: Suburban/approximately 15 miles south of Pittsburgh; comprised of the Borough of Canonsburg and the Townships of North Strabane and Cecil
Enrollment: 860
Grade Levels: 7 & 8
School Schedule: 8 period bell schedule (7 class periods plus 1 "homebase" period)

Student Demographics:

0.5%	Hispanic
90%	White
4%	African American
1%	Asian
4%	Other
24%	Free/Reduced Lunch
0.2%	English Learners

2013 School Performance Profile: 84.9
2014 School Performance Profile: 83.0
2015 School Performance Profile: NA
2016 School Performance Profile: 81.8

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Vision Statement, Middle School Philosophy, Dedication to Adolescent Learners
- Standards-based and Standards-aligned curricula
- Locally-developed benchmark assessments in math, reading, and science classes
- Data analysis and data-driven instruction using standardized and benchmark test results via data warehouse
- Teaming w/ daily common team planning time
- Thematic units and interdisciplinary/cross-curricular lessons
- Focus on educating the whole child (arts, music, technology)
- Nationally-recognized band program
- Art enrichment, projects, trips
- Algebra I offered
- Co-teaching model with learning support teachers providing instruction in the classes
- T.O.P.S. class taken by all 8th graders (Team Oriented Problem Solving)

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- Academic social networking
- Variety of technology available to all teachers, including cloud computing and an increasing number of Chromebook carts
- Strong technology education program includes 6 different technology classes for all students, with overarching themes of technology, engineering, and art

Developmental Responsiveness

- Homebase occurs on a daily basis first thing in the morning; students have an opportunity to participate in activities/clubs/meetings, get extra help, make up work; teachers have an opportunity to meet with their students, offer extra assistance, and advise on a variety of topics
- Anti-bullying program based on Olweus' Bullying Prevention Program with student-led class meetings
- Community/business partners speak with students about careers; cross-curricular Career Research Unit in 8th grade
- Online grade book, assignments, team blogs, social media accounts, and informative letters/newsletters readily available to parents via building website
- Fitness and wellness stressed: Annual 7th grade FIT Day, physical education, health, family and consumer science, intramural program, extracurricular athletics
- Annual "Girls Night Out" event targets female middle school students and provides a forum to address issues pertinent to their social/emotional stage
- Middle School Issues class, taught by counselors to all 7th grade students, with a focus on pertinent topics to the age group (bullying, cyberbullying, conflict resolution, peer pressure)
- Digital citizenship and internet safety explicitly taught in multiple subjects
- Active student council, with officers and homebase representatives, focus on helping others and giving back to the community
- Multi-faceted "move-up" program to assist with transitioning students into both the 7th and 9th grades

Social Equity

- Staff uses varied approaches in instruction to meet diverse learners' needs
- Differentiated instruction and assessment
- Grading practices aligned with current literature
- Teachers available to students during the homebase period for extra assistance and support
- Academic Center to help struggling or accelerated students available to all students
- Focus on different cultures, societies, and religions in the 7th grade social studies curriculum
- World Language Club, sponsored by language teachers, meets monthly to learn and experience various cultures through activities, films, holiday celebrations
- School-wide events such as holiday pep rallies, appreciation days, student-faculty contests available to all students and based on clear, attainable criteria
- Sports offered to all students with a "no cut" policy

Organizational Support

- Assistance for at-risk students (SAP Team, therapist, social worker, active student counselors)
- Various clubs and activities
- Faculty professional development, professional memberships, continuing education
- Data analysis (Performance Tracker, data warehouse)
- Teaming philosophy, common expectations and management plans
- Relationships with multiple local colleges and universities (student teachers, interns, recognized Junior Achievement program)
- Partnership with high school's National Honor Society to provide an after-school peer tutoring program
- Full-time school resource officer (SRO) from local police department who regularly pushes into classes to assist with drug/alcohol awareness, cyberbullying
- Numerous publications from articles to text chapters at both state and national level