

NORTH SALEM MIDDLE / HIGH SCHOOL



2018-2019 SCHOOL STATISTICS

Designated in 2007

Re-Designated in 2016

Community Size - Rural

School Enrollment - 625

Grade Levels - 6-12

School Calendar - traditional

Free & Reduced Lunch - 2%

English Learners - 0.7%

Students with Disabilities - 14.7%

North Salem Central School District

230 June Road

Tel (914) 669-5414

Principal - Vincent DiGrandi

www.northsalemschools.org

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- District Mission: Engage students to continuously learn, question, define and solve problems through critical and creative thinking.

- Problem Solving Tasks (PST) in each course connects instruction and assessment through student demonstration of problem solving through critical and creative thinking.

- Middle School University prepares all students for academic excellence annually by addressing organization skills, use of technology, learning styles and goal setting.

- The District is utilizing Habits of Mind and Making Thinking Visible to enhance student ownership

2018-2019 School Demographics

- African American - 2.5%
- Asian - 4%
- Caucasian - 77.5%
- Filipino - 0%
- Hispanic - 13.7%
- Native American - 0%
- Pacific Islander - 0%
- Other - 2.4%
- Two or More - 0%

of learning.

- The district is a member of ED Leader 21 and the middle school has been a part of studying and implementing Edleader's 4C's Tasks and Rubrics.
- Individual academic assistance provided after school and through Small Group Assistance (SGA); content area teachers available at lunch to assist students.
- All students accelerated in Spanish or French; 60% 8th graders accelerated in Algebra and Earth Science.
- Gifted / Talented program provides extensions and challenges to all students through push-in model
- Authentic learning experiences provided through interdisciplinary and technology-enriched STEM/STEAM courses.
- Grade level teams initiate professional development, support communication, examine student work, share strategies and provide systems to make expectation of excellence a reality
- A focus on teaching 21st Century competencies, to 21st Century students, using 21st Century skills.
- Data driven instruction supports differentiation, integration of students with special needs in all classes, and enrichment.

Developmental Responsiveness

- A comprehensive counseling program provides personal, family, and academic support through programs addressing peer conflicts, academic anxiety, bereavement, anger management, and other developmentally-related issues.
- Individualized goal setting for all students to serve as a guide toward yearly progress
- AIS scheduled in school day to allow students to fully participate in all courses and after school offerings; support provided to students by teacher recommendation in addition to standardized test scores
- Hands-on, interdisciplinary learning experiences at each grade level include Earth Science/English climate change public service announcement project, 6th grade Present to Past historical research project and exhibition, 6th grade science fair, and 7th grade Science/Math orienteering scavenger hunt. Sixth grade outdoor experience with scientific and team building activities; field trips such as the 7th grade Boston trip (for authentic study of Colonial history) and 8th grade visit to Washington, D.C. to experience government firsthand.
- Learning experiences which make connections between disciplines, include an element of choice in projects and assessments, and are socially relevant
- Peer Mediation to promote self-regulation and positive problem solving
- Character and Mental Health Education and anti-bullying activities occur through the year in small group advisory format
- 17 clubs, 19 teams and extensive co-curricular program (assemblies, social events, service projects) dedicated exclusively to Middle School students
- Anonymous Alerts offers on-line reporting of student bullying for corrective action; all students formally identify an adult with whom they feel comfortable talking to.

Social Equity

- All students annually participate in Art, Music, Home and Careers, Technology Education and computer science.
- Inclusion classrooms utilize a co-teaching model at all grade levels
- Extensive professional development supports teachers in reaching the diverse learning needs of students through such topics as social emotional impacts on learning, technology integration,

literacy in all disciplines, and teacher designed study groups

- Gifted / Talented program provides extension activities to all students
- Performance assessments include: creation of models, composition of original music, technology- integrated presentations, creation of video, etc. in addition to traditional tests and essays to support student demonstration of mastery
- 8th grade students also have access to accelerated content by taking high school-level Regents math and science classes as well as World Language for high school credit
- Students participate in shared decision-making through the Student Forum, PTO, and other organizational bodies. Parents are also involved on these committees
- Enrichment includes all 6th grade students participating in an international pen pal program; all 7th and 8th grade students have the opportunity to participate in Math Olympiad; all 8th graders participate in "Shark Tank" project in Family and Consumer Science courses.
- Student-produced videos and exhibitions celebrate achievements and introduce expectations of each grade level to parents and students.

Organizational Support

- Curriculum articulation and improvement supported through affiliation in Tri-State Consortium of High Performing Schools and the district's spiraled model of student learning.
- Curriculum and instruction consistently documented through the use of essential questions and the structure of Rubicon Atlas Curriculum mapping
- Grade level teams (including special area and special education teachers) meet weekly, host quarterly parent meetings, and jointly plan curriculum that addresses student needs.
- Middle School Coordinator position ensures articulation across grade levels and with administration with weekly meetings
- Unique 6 -12 building structure with teacher membership in academic departments, and administrative leadership for grades 6 - 12 ensures continuity, articulation and consistency in school philosophy and procedures.
- Professional development is ongoing, purposeful, directly connected to practice and is facilitated through interdisciplinary teams, teacher leaders, common planning time, combined Middle/High School department and faculty meetings, multi-grade teams that assess and analyze student performance, APPR process which is collaborative, data driven and reflective