

# ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS SCHOOLS TO WATCH

## MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE

### Islip Middle School



#### Designated in 2008;

Islip Middle School • District Islip Union Free School District  
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### 2005-07 School Statistics

(Source: NYSTART, NYS School Report Card)

Community: Size/characteristics

Enrollment: 832

Grade Levels: 6-7-8

School Schedule: Academic Team (Block)

#### Student Demographics

49%	Male
51%	Female
9%	Hispanic/Latino
84%	White
.000%	American Indian/Alaskan Native
3%	African American
.000%	Filipino
4%	Asian/Pacific Islander
9%	Students with Disabilities
11%	Free/Red. Lunch/Econ. Disadvantaged
2%	English Learners

2005 AYP: ELA 164/110 AMO Math 172/87 AMO

2006 AYP: ELA 164/118 AMO Math 179/82 AMO

2007 AYP: ELA 172/118 AMO Math 183/82 AMO

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

### Academic Excellence

- The Islip Middle School promotes the belief that “Every Teacher is a Teacher of ELA” and promotes the use of “Content Vocabulary Word Walls” in academic and exploratory classes.
- Multiple forms of assessment, both formative and summative are used to measure student learning. Grade level benchmark or quarterly assessments, aligned with the New York State Standards for each academic discipline, are used in grades 6-7-8 to measure student growth over time and prepare them for state summative assessments. Exploratory classes assess student comprehension by applying a writing rubric for extended responses each quarter.
- Interdisciplinary academic teams in grades 6-7-8 provide the structure for integrating curriculum.
- Islip Union Free School District’s Professional Development Plan is based on the instruction and assessment framework outlined by Grant Wiggins, Jay McTighe, Carol Ann Tomlinson, and Robert Marzano. The theoretical framework of these practitioners is supported through our PD plan.
- Common planning time is provided for academic teams five days a week. This block scheduling allows teachers to maximize their time together to coordinate instruction and provide individual support for students.
- The building level technology committee promotes the use of Computer Assisted Instructional (CAI) programs to improve student understanding and promote learning. The building is beginning the implementation of a long term plan to outfit each instructional area with a ceiling mounted projectors and promethean boards. Student’s can access content extra help with *School Island* and *Study Island* via the World Wide Web.
- Extra academic support is provided to students before and after school. The “South Shore Program”, in coordination with the middle school provides academic support for students each day until 5pm.
- Islip Middle School performance on New York State Assessment’s is near the top in comparison with our similar schools for Math, Science, and Social Studies.
- Evidence of student work is displayed prominently throughout the middle school. It provides a warm and inviting environment and demonstrates the high quality of hands on instruction that takes places within the walls of the middle school.
- District wide conference days, faculty and department meetings are used for the continuous disaggregation of assessment data to identify gaps in student understanding and inform instruction.

### **Developmental Responsiveness**

- Islip Middle School promotes a regionally and nationally recognized advisory program, with a 13 to 1 student teacher ratio.
- A component of the middle school advisory program, “Video Advisory” is a school developed character education program.
- The middle school community is comprised of academic teams on each grade level. Teaming provides an opportunity to develop meaningful relationships between students and teachers.
- Guidance counselors follow students from the incoming fifth grade buildings and provide a transition through eighth grade before beginning work with a new group of sixth grade students.
- Islip Middle School support staff meets as an Instructional Support Team to identify strategies to help students grow academically and socially.
- After school clubs to include Keep Islip Clean, Builders Club and others provide a connection into the community with their charitable contributions and work. Community service includes collaboration with St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital, Angel Flight, and Southside Hospital’s books for new mothers program.
- The Islip Middle School Community promotes a relationship with parents and students through our shared decision making model, PTA and SEPTA. Each student receives a planner that helps foster communication between the academic team and home. Parents can view their children’s progress and attendance on line using the student data base system of Infinite Campus

### **Social Equity**

- Teams are heterogeneously chosen with input from all faculty, parents, and members of the Instructional Support Team. Sixth grade teams are hand-picked by sixth grade teachers to provide equity and support for each new student.
- The sixth grade teams have three teachers and approximately 75 students. Every sixth grade teacher teaches ELA and reading. Each teacher teaches one additional subject math or science or social studies.
- The seventh and eighth grade teams have content specific teachers for ELA, math science, social studies, and foreign language. Each team has approximately 115 students.
- The Advisory Committee has created monthly themes that are supported with various activities to promote community within the school.
- All middle school students participate in an exploratory schedule of classes outlined by New York State Middle School class requirements policy 100.4.
- The Islip Middle School Renaissance program is a nationally recognized program that rewards students in all grades for making appropriate choices and succeeding academically.
- The creation of an Islip Television Network (ITV) and daily announcements that loop via a closed circuit television system provide faculty and students up to the minute details on events and activities taking place in the middle school.
- A dedicated Academic Intervention Services (AIS) program provides small group instruction for students who need assistance in developing their academic skills.
- CAI software is utilized to differentiate instruction and meet the individual needs of learners.
- Integrated units including an emphasis on The Sixties, The Holocaust, and the plight of the Tibetan people stretch the ordinary curriculum into extra-ordinary learning experiences for children. This year the middle school is planning an “Opening Day” integration of the curriculum to promote the beginning of the baseball season. Classes will examine the math behind the dimensions of a baseball diamond to the enjoyment of a Nathan’s hotdog on the middle school lawn.
- The middle school’s doors are open to the local Boy and Girl Scouts, The South Shore After School Program, and various PAL and CYO teams. Students can come to the building any school night up until 9:00 to retrieve forgotten assignments.
- Interscholastic sports teams and intramurals are open to all middle school students.

### **Organizational Support**

- The building principal begins each year with a “State of the Middle School” address that celebrates the ongoing successes of the school and charts the course for a new year. Working with faculty, staff, students, and community groups the building principal establishes a sound vision for the middle school.
- Faculty, staff, and students are surveyed regularly and participate on various building and district level committees to help foster the middle school’s vision.
- The Professional Development plan establishes the foundation for continuous growth among the faculty.
- The framework of the Essential Elements and National Middle School Association’s *This We Believe* are promoted throughout the year and infuse the mission of Islip Middle School.
- Faculty, department, and district conferences are used to disaggregate data and promote dialogue on best classroom practice.
- Weekly meetings of team representatives, called “Liaison” discuss issues impacting the daily routines of the middle school.