

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS SCHOOLS TO WATCH

MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE

PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL



Designated in 2008

Pioneer Middle School • Pioneer Central School District • County Cattaraugus • State New York • Principal Ravo Root • 12132 Old Olean Road • Phone (716) 492-9371, E-mail rroot@pion.wnyric.org
School Web site:
www.pioneerschools.org

2005-07 School Statistics

(Source: Enter name of data source for stats listed below.)

Community: Size/characteristics

Enrollment: 805

Grade Levels: 5 - 8

School Schedule: 7:30 am to 2:20 pm

Student Demographics

52% Male

48% Female

1% Hispanic/Latino

97% White

1% American Indian/Alaskan Native

1% African American

0% Filipino

0% Asian/Pacific Islander

18% Students with Disabilities

47.7% Free/Red. Lunch/Econ. Disadvantaged

.001% English Learners

2005 AYP:

ELA 146/AMO 109 Good Standing

Math 152/AMO 86

2006 AYP:

ELA 151/AMO 118 Good Standing

Math 163/AMO 82

2007 AYP:

ELA 158/AMO 118 Good Standing

Math 151/AMO 82

*Recognized by NYSED as High Achieving/Gap Closing School 2003-2006

Source- NYSTART, School Report Card and BEDS forms

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Pioneer has a guaranteed, viable curriculum across the entire District as evidenced by curriculum mapping using Rubicon Atlas.
- Local quarterly assessments in ELA and Math are common across all grade levels and they are aligned to the NYS standards.
- Benchmark and Data Mentor programs are used by teachers to identify areas of instruction that need to be adapted as well as to monitor student progress and provide extra help as needed.
- NYS Standards are posted in all classrooms and teacher websites.
- Large, finished art frames display student work throughout the building.
- Bulletin boards and plaques display student accomplishments and awards throughout the building.
- To ensure that students gain a deep understanding of the curriculum the Pioneer District provides ongoing training in Understanding by Design for all its teachers.
- Integrated projects connect content areas and allow students to acquire skills and content knowledge.
- Technology serves as an instructional tool: eight wireless computer labs, numerous Classroom Performance Units, wireless chalkboards, Smart boards, and a Digital Media Projector mounted in each classroom.
- Literacy strategies are integrated into the curriculum across all curricular areas and grade levels.
- Differentiated literacy instruction occurs across grades five and six utilizing the Kidbiz program to improve reading, writing and knowledge of current events.
- English Language Arts and math AIS are built into the master schedule. This allows AIS teachers to push into both reading and math classes in fifth and sixth grade in order to meet the varying academic needs of all students.
- Master schedule accommodates grade level and department collaboration during the school day

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Developmental Responsiveness

- Pioneer Middle School embraces school-wide expectations to “Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be Ready”, which is part of a district-wide PBIS initiative.
- Our large school is divided into small instructional teams at all grade levels.
- Parents attend school on the first day with their children for parent-student orientation day.
- Our after school program allows for a wide variety of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities including clubs, recreational and interscholastic sports, classes, groups and homework help.
- All middle school staff and students receive pride t-shirts that are worn on spirit days
- Relationships are developed amongst students, parents and with support staff. At risk students are assigned an adult to check and connect with daily. The entire staff is trained in Capturing Kids Hearts.
- Parents are a vital part of our middle school program through the use of Parent Connect, PST group, Parent Teacher Conference Days, and our Parent Volunteer program.
- School counselors have support groups for students’ issues which include but are not limited to: Friends group, Teen group, Banana Splits, Healthy Women group, Anger Management and Guy’s Group.
- Middle school students volunteer their time, resources and energy through Leo Club (which works with the area Lion’s club), March of Dimes Walk America, Pines Nursing Home, NJHS work at Special Olympics, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Giving Tree (students provide holiday presents to families in need) and community food pantries
- Mental health counselors and a family support center are located on campus and are accessible to students in need during the day.
- Pioneer Middle School teachers use a wide variety of instructional strategies including hands-on activities, centers, stations and individual learning opportunities, in addition to cooperative learning groups, differentiated instruction, technology integration and AIS.
- Students are given leadership opportunities formally through Student Council, National Junior Honor Society, Teen Leadership, Safe School Ambassadors, Interscholastic and recreational sports, Odyssey of the Mind, Science Olympiad, Youth Court, Yearbook, Foreign Language Club, Science Camp, Middle School Newspaper and Peer Mediation.

Social Equity

- Our child study team works collaboratively to determine plans which enable a child to overcome academic, social, and emotional barriers that are impeding success.
- All classrooms at the middle school are equipped with LCD projectors that allow teachers to incorporate varied technology into their lessons. Video streaming, PowerPoint presentations, virtual field trips, wireless chalkboards, CPS systems, and Smart boards are available to all staff. All students have access to sign out laptop computers each day.
- Kindness Paws program celebrates acts of kindness and service that students perform in and out of school
- Twenty students are recognized as Students of the Month for regularly displaying positive character traits
- Staff members send positive post cards regularly to students to recognize positive behaviors
- Approximately 150 students stay after school to participate in academic or recreational after school programs daily. These students are all transported home by bus. The size of our district is 250 square miles large.
- Parent communication is a vital part of our middle school program. This is done through: Parent Connect, PST group (Parents, Students, Teachers: United for Success), quarterly newsletter, informational hotline, school newspaper, team web pages, high school planning meetings, Parent-Teacher conferences, Pioneer Middle Schools’ Parent Volunteer program and the PBIS Team.
- The master schedule can be altered to meet the changing needs of staff and students. Teachers have daily common planning time by team and department. Flexible blocks of time allow for more flexible teaching practices.
- Pioneer Middle School houses a vision department, speech, occupational and physical therapists, sensory-response room and an adaptive physical education program.
- Students fill leadership roles through Teen Leadership Group, Peer Mediation, Student Council, Safe School Ambassadors, National Junior Honor Society, the Shared Decision Making committee and various other committees and groups. Our Character Anchors support student involvement and encourages students to serve others.

Organizational Support

- Pioneer Middle School has been recognized by the New York State Education Department as High Performing/Gap Closing School for the past three years.
- The staff is knowledgeable of the Essential Elements and their importance in the operation of our school.
- At Pioneer Middle School, it is a shared belief that all students can learn. Faculty contributes to this goal by working together on teams with a blended inclusion model at each grade level.
- A model of shared, collaborative leadership and ownership is utilized. Building administrators work with all stakeholders to propel the school forward on its stated mission while preserving its institutional memory and purpose
- Our mission statement is visible in all classrooms, in the hall of the pool foyer and throughout common areas, and serves as a visual focus for members of our school community.
- Middle school teacher representatives on the district Curriculum Council help to plan staff development days based on student data and instructional needs. Teacher led faculty meetings focus on improving instruction and learning.