

# NYS Schools To Watch Program

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- What is it?
  - Why is it?
  - Who is it?
- Is it for Seaford Middle School?

# Essential Elements: Schools-To-Watch Program

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Since its inception nineteen years ago, New York's EE: STW program operated as a program to identify and recognize exemplary schools that are successfully implementing New York State's Essential Elements and the National Forum's criteria for high performance and to promote school improvement and continuous growth.





# Benefits of being an EE:STW School

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## SOME NOTORIETY!

- National & state recognition for the district, school, and staff.
- Membership in a select group of nationally recognized middle-level schools.
- A Banner! Hooray!

## GROWTH & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- On-going, research-based school improvement.
- Professional development opportunities and networking.
- Coaching towards continued success.

# Benefits of Completing the EE: STW Application Process

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- A thorough, research-based, review of the middle-level school and its programs consistent with the Regents Policy Statement on Middle-Level Education, the SED's Essential Elements of Standards-Focused Middle-Level Schools and Programs, and the National Forum's STW Criteria.
- Engagement of the Seaford community in a constructive school improvement activity.
- Identification of school/program strengths as well as areas in need of improvement.
- Development of a research-based continuous improvement plan for the school.
- Site visit (and follow-up report) by a team of trained middle-level educators.



# Typical Two-Year Application Timeline

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- January – July 2023: Application preparation and submission
- August – September 2023: Peer review process of submitted application
- October – January 2023-24: Site visit to middle school by auditors
- February 2024: Notification of Essential Elements: Schools-To-Watch Designation or Rising School Designation
- March – May 2024: Celebrations at Schools
- June 2024: Attendance at National Forum's Awards Conference in Washington, DC
- October 2024: Present at the NYS Middle School Association's Annual Conference

# The criteria.....

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- **Four Elements with 37 criteria with over 130 indicators:**
  - Element 1 – Academic Excellence (8 criteria)
  - Element 2 - Organizational Structure and Operations (9 criteria)
  - Element 3 – Social Equity (10 criteria)
  - Element 4 – Developmental Responsiveness (10 criteria)
- **Schoolwide Self-Study and Rubric – then blind survey**
- **Application**
- **Auditors.....and best of all**

**IT'S ALL  
FREE!!!!**



# What have we done thus far?

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Jen, Tom, and Dan – ROAD TRIPS!



# Hit the Ground and Ran.....

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We visited six local Long Island middle schools that had attained the Schools To Watch delineation to:

- see what they were doing differently or similarly to our school
- find out what they thought of the process
- garner advice from our peers



# Schools To Watch

## ...that we watched!

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- - Sayville Middle School
- - Mineola Middle School
- - Weber Middle School (Port Washington)
- - Merrick Avenue Middle School (Bellmore)
- - Garden City Middle School
- - Oceanside Middle School

# So where do we fall?

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While there are some areas for improvement and for consideration, the visits really brought to life that our little school is right on target with the schools that have already been delineated as Schools To Watch....so why not us?!?!?



# The STW Committee:

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**Administration: Dan Smith, Jen Bisulca**

**Faculty:**

**Alex Mantay – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math**  
**Mike Burns – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade SS**  
**Lisa Jones – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math**  
**Rich Thau – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA/SS**  
**Cristina Spithogiannis – Special Education**  
**Danyi Hamilton – World Language**  
**Nick Coacci – Music**  
**Stephanie Lucia - Art**  
**Sarah Busch – PPS**  
**Samantha Riebling - Library**

**Staff:**

**Diane Kaminsky – Secretarial**  
**Huguens Eugene – Custodial**  
**Tom Lively – Security**  
**Betty Fiola – Cafeteria**

**Central Administration Liaison:**

**Tom Lynch – Assistant  
Superintendent for Curriculum and  
Technology**

# Getting ready for the self-study!

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- January faculty meeting was dedicated to introducing the overall STW program
- February faculty meeting was dedicated to the four elements and the self-study
- Team and off-team meetings were breakouts from the faculty meeting
- March team and off-team meetings – the self study begins!



# We're Already Talking!

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- **Committee on Exploratory Program**
- **Committee on Teaming**
- **Re-imagining our library**
- **Rethinking our Technology Program**

**We are ready to go!**

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**READY TO GO**