

SEAFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

2023-2024

A VIEW THROUGH THE LENS OF THE
NYS SCHOOLS TO WATCH PROGRAM



WHAT IS SCHOOLS TO WATCH?

- The National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform created a program that would evaluate and acknowledge exceptional middle schools across America. That program is called "Schools to Watch."
- The New York State Department of Education recognized that the Schools to Watch program closely aligned with the New York State Department of Education's Essential Elements of Standards-Focused Middle Level Schools and Programs. In 2004, it established the Essential Elements: Schools to Watch Program.
- As their website states: "The Essential Elements: Schools To Watch program recognizes schools that demonstrate continuous improvement and excel in the following four domains; academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity, and organizational structure. The program is non-competitive and is designed to promote and guide the school improvement process as well as highlight characteristics of high performing schools with middle grades."

Looking at Seaford Middle School through the four domains of Schools To Watch.....

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

How well does the school educate its students?

SOCIAL EQUITY

How well does the school provide support to ALL of its students?

DEVELOPMENTAL RESPONSIVENESS

How well does the school know and care for the age group?

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

How well do the school's systems and procedures support the other three domains?

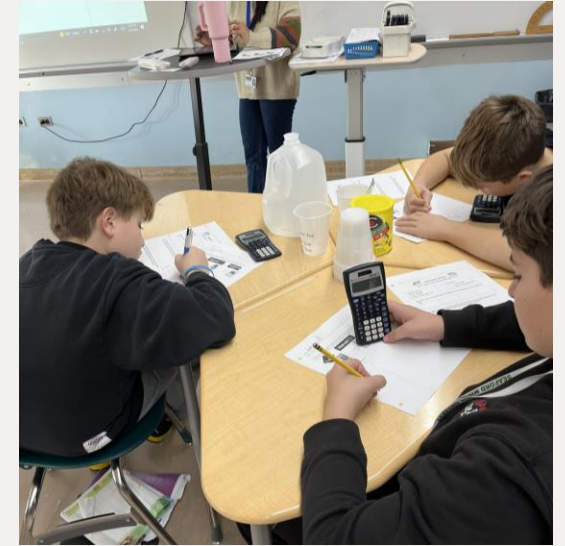
MODULE ONE:

*ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE*



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- During the three years that students call Seaford Middle School home.....All state mandates are met and exceeded in English, Math, Science, Social Studies, World Language, Art, Family and Consumer Science, Health, Music, Physical Education, and Technology.
- All students graduate with Living Environment and World Language high school credits. An increasing amount of students graduate with Algebra high school credit.
- Our exploratory program supports the exploration, discovery, and growth of students' experiences and curiosity with a rich assortment of courses.
- Columbia University Advancing Literacy Writing program has been implemented across grades 6-8.



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- Project Lead the Way enhances learning with enrichment curriculum in S.T.E.M.
- Support classes: English Lab, Math Lab, Academic Support, Learning Lab, Wilson Reading, Algebra Support and Living Environment Support ensure the academic success for those who need the additional resources to flourish.
- Our National Junior Honor Society has more than 45% of the 8th grade as its members.
- As we analyze our data through our Data Wise Program, we are ahead of the Nassau County average in both Math and ELA among students who take the assessments.
- More than 50% of the school are enrolled in our Music programs



MODULE TWO:

*DEVELOPMENTAL
RESPONSIVENESS*



DEVELOPMENTAL RESPONSIVENESS

- Our PPS Department runs individual, small group, and responsive guidance sessions to assist students navigating this time in their lives along with special push-in sessions for our 6th graders and transition meetings for our 8th graders preparing for high school.
- We hold Activity Nights to allow students to socialize live - in person - with no electronics!
- We celebrate students who excel quarterly in academics, service, character, and leadership.
- Students who demonstrate good deeds get recognized with Pizza with the Principal.



MOOD METER

How are you feeling?

ENRAGED	PANICKED	STRESSED	JITTERY	SHOCKED	SUPPRESSED	UPBEAT	FESTIVE	EXHILARATED	ECSTATIC
LIVID	FURIOUS	FRUSTRATED	TENSE	STUNNED	HYPED	CHEERFUL	MOTIVATED	INSPIRED	ELATED
FUMING	FRIGHTENED	ANGRY	NERVOUS	RESTLESS	ENERGIZED	LIVELY	ENTHUSIASTIC	OPTIMISTIC	EXCITED
ANXIOUS	APPREHENSIVE	WORRIED	IRRITATED	ANNOYED	PLEASED	HAPPY	FOCUSED	PROUD	THRILLED
REPULSED	TROUBLED	CONCERNED	UNEASY	PEVVED	PLEASANT	JOYFUL	HOPEFUL	PLAYFUL	BLISSFUL
DISGUSTED	BLUM	DISAPPOINTED	DOWN	APATHETIC	AT EASE	EASYGOING	CONTENT	LOVING	FULFILLED
PESSIMISTIC	MOROSE	DISCOURAGED	SAD	BORED	CALM	SECURE	SATISFIED	GRATEFUL	TOUCHED
ALIENATED	MISERABLE	LOWELY	DISHEARTENED	TIRED	RELAXED	CHILL	RESTFUL	BLESSED	BALANCED
DEPENDENT	DEPRESSED	SULLEN	EXHAUSTED	FATIGUED	MELLOW	THOUGHTFUL	PEACEFUL	COMFY	CAREFREE
DESPAIR	HOPELESS	DESOLATE	SPENT	DRAINED	SLEEPY	COMPLACENT	TRANQUIL	COZY	SERENE

Energy ↑ (vertical axis)
Pleasantness → (horizontal axis)



DEVELOPMENTAL RESPONSIVENESS

- Our Teen Leaders Care (TLC) program gives 7th & 8th grade students the opportunity to become leaders and learn skills that can assist them in all aspects of their education and life.
- Our Advisory Program has blended the district initiatives of the Mood Meter, Lions Quest, Habits of Mind, Innovator's Mindset, and the Seaford Scholars into a comprehensive program for our students' development and well-being.
- Our 8th Grade Participates in Career Day - a day for students to explore career interests led by community members in those fields.



DEVELOPMENTAL RESPONSIVENESS

- We have a long list of clubs to expose students to a variety of interests and cultivate interests they may already have.
- Seaford MS has a rich athletics program that prepares student athletes for the more competitive high school athletics program.
- Through clubs and activities, students raise money, donate food, toys, and clothing for those in need throughout the school year to instill a sense of community and charity to promote civic readiness.



MODULE THREE:

SOCIAL EQUITY



SOCIAL EQUITY

- The school has a one-to-one device program to ensure that all students, regardless of income, have a level playing field with technology.
- Seaford Middle School has the full continuum of special education services, enrichment opportunities for all students, as well as accelerated courses supporting our inclusive learning environment.
- The club offerings allow for all students to interact based on interest.
- Our Culture Club supports student diversity and celebrates our cultures.
- Our PACC club matches students from our CDP program with students from our mainstream classes in a social way.



SOCIAL EQUITY

- The school offers a vibrant Peer Tutoring program where students can learn from their peers.
- Each school year, students identify who their “go-to” adult is in the building in September and ensures they have someone looking out for them.
- Our school offers translation services and participates in an ENL parents’ program each year.
- The school’s Code of Conduct is upheld and students can advocate for change where necessary.
- Programs like Red Ribbon Week, World Kindness Day, Autism Awareness Day, and PS, I Love You Day all champion acceptance for one another.



MODULE FOUR:
ORGANIZATIONAL
STRUCTURE



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- Our Master Schedule models true middle school philosophy preserving teaming, block scheduling in 6th grade, common planning time, and an advisory program.
- There are weekly team and off-team departmental meetings with administration and within the grade levels.
- We have a: Safety Committee, Teaming Committee, Exploratory Committee, Wellness Committee, Seaford Scholars Committee, Data Wise Committee, Instructional Cabinet, and a Teachers Advisory Committee to collaboratively engage these important areas of our school community.



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- Weekly Instructional Support Team meetings ensure students at risk or struggling students are discussed and cared for.
- Our PPS Department has their caseloads and supervises our Wellness Center to ensure our students are cared for emotionally and socially.
- Staff groups such as aides, custodians, security guards, and secretaries all are familiar with the school and philosophy of Seaford Middle School and share in its success and growth.
- Administrators are involved in their professional organizations ensuring that the most current issues and methods are shared and learned.



SCHOOLS TO WATCH:

*A VEHICLE FOR
IMPROVEMENT*



IMPROVEMENTS IN THE WORKS ALREADY!

- Our EXPLORATORY PROGRAM has been reimagined with the work of our Exploratory Committee.
- Our TEAMING COMMITTEE has reviewed our teaming and look to improve its sense of community within the school giving identity to the teams and engaging the teams in events.
- Instructional teams now meet with each other by subject and by team each week in addition to the weekly meeting with administration.
- Looking to improve instruction, our DATA WISE COMMITTEE is spearheading efforts to use data to impact instruction working with BOCES and turnkeying information and process to our teachers in our school
- After our Schools To Watch site-visit, we will be left with valuable insight and feedback on improvement possibilities to make our school even better!

SEAFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

*FUTURE'S SO BRIGHT, WE GOTTA
WEAR SHADES!*

