

York Suburban Middle School



**York Suburban Middle School
2015-2016**

Quality Assessment Report

Submitted by: Dr. Scott T. Krauser, Principal

Introduction

The following report was compiled to provide summaries to some of the academic initiatives, student services, and academic accomplishments of the York Suburban Middle School (YSMS) during the 2015-2016 school year. The YSMS administrative team and staff maintain a commitment to academic excellence and high expectations for all students by providing the necessary learning environment for young adolescents to grow and develop, thus bridging the critical educational span between elementary school and high school.

Academic Initiatives:

- *Student, Purpose, Practice Period (SPP Period)* – The middle school implemented a focused structural change to the building activity period. The last period of the school day, students focused on developing self advocacy skills by identifying needs necessary to find both academic and developmental success. Throughout the six-day cycle, students would participate in one day of clubs (all students), one day of PRIDE Alliance (all students receive education on anti-bullying and developmentally appropriate character education topics), band (choice elective), chorus (choice elective), orchestra (choice elective), or academic support (this includes personalized remediation, homework/studying needs, self-selected reading, assessment make-up, teacher/student conference).
- *Science Pilot and Adoption* – The middle school science department vetted a variety of potential new science resources, piloting two particular company resources in grades six and eight. The thorough process resulted in the adoption of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt – Science Fusion, which is a state-of-the-art science program designed for building inquiry and STEM skills and optimized for learning through a 1:1 digital environment. The write-in science workbook, digital curriculum, virtual labs, and hands-on activities develop important critical-thinking skills that prepare students for success in future science courses and in the workplace. Summer professional development will assist teachers for full implementation during August 2016.
- *Student-Centered Classroom Design* – The middle school is continuing with the implementation of more collaborative classrooms by design and function. The physical make-up includes more choice seating, collaborative work spaces, and student movement. The functions of the classrooms operate on collaboration, project-based learning, technology integration, and plenty of conversation between students and teachers about learning.
- *Student Excellence Awards* – The middle school implemented a positive academic and behavior recognition program into the academic quarters during the 2015-2016 school year. Students achieving both academic success (distinguished honor roll or honor roll) and positive behavior success (no office referrals) were awarded medals of accomplishment during grade level assemblies at the end of each marking period.
- *CORE Six* – The middle school teachers continued an active book study, “CORE Six: Essential Strategies for Achieving Excellence”, throughout the school year. Teachers collaboratively

discussed strategy implementation and lesson planning associated with six critical instructional strategies that help students respond to the rigorous demands of the PA Core Standards.

Student Services

- *PRIDE Alliance* – The middle school continued its character education and anti-bullying program each cycle with small, interwoven grade level student groups meeting with Alliance teachers to work on developmentally appropriate topics.
- *Homework Club* – The middle school continued with its after-school homework club held in the school library media center. Students may choose to stay after school Tuesday through Thursday and use the school as a means for resource and staff support on homework needs. Transportation is provided for students who wish to participate.
- *Trojan Morning Crew (TMC)* – The middle school introduced a before school guided homework environment this school year.
- *REACH* – The middle school operates an invitation only after school program for students requiring intensive intervention on core academic subjects. Focused instructional strategies and remediation assist students in finding success within the academic standards.
- *Inquizitor's Club* – The middle school offered an after school program that provided students with opportunities to conduct scientific research.

Academic Accomplishments:

YSMS holds all students to a high level of academic expectation. Beyond student-centered goals of Distinguished Honor Roll and Honor Roll, YSMS is evaluated on

- **Spring 2015 Results, Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA):**
 - Pennsylvania School Performance Profile website – Click [HERE](#)
 - Pennsylvania Value Added Assessment System – Click [HERE](#)
 - PSSA English Language Arts (ELA)
 - Grade 6 – 83% Advanced and Proficient
 - Grade 7 – 84% Advanced and Proficient
 - Grade 8 – 85% Advanced and Proficient
 - PSSA Mathematics
 - Grade 6 – 69% Advanced and Proficient
 - Grade 7 – 59% Advanced and Proficient
 - Grade 8 – 70% Advanced and Proficient
 - PSSA Science
 - Grade 8 – 85% Advanced and Proficient
- **Spring 2016 Results, Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA):**
 - Pennsylvania School Performance Profile website – Click [HERE](#)
 - Pennsylvania Value Added Assessment System – Click [HERE](#)
 - PSSA English Language Arts (ELA)
 - Grade 6 – 83% Advanced and Proficient
 - Grade 7 – 87% Advanced and Proficient
 - Grade 8 – 79% Advanced and Proficient
 - PSSA Mathematics

- Grade 6 – 68% Advanced and Proficient
 - Grade 7 – 65% Advanced and Proficient
 - Grade 8 – 56% Advanced and Proficient
 - PSSA Science
 - Grade 8 – 77% Advanced and Proficient
- Algebra I Keystone Exams
 - Spring 2015 Results:
 - 97% Advanced and Proficient
 - Spring 2016 Results:
 - 100% Advanced and Proficient
- York County Science and Engineering Fair
 - 6 First Place Winners
 - 11 Specialty Awards/Scholarships
- Math Counts
 - 3 Teams placing 1st, 2nd, and 10th in the local competition.
 - 4 Students ranking in the top 10 and 8 Students ranking in the top 20 out of 147 local competitors.
- Envirothon
 - YSMS Team ranking 3rd in the county competition.
- Spelling Bee
 - 2 competitors reaching the regional level of competition

In summary, quality assessment at the middle school level reveals programs and supports that go well beyond providing an excellent core academic program; rather their designs are inspiring student potential through hard work and effort. The Middle School staff has developed diverse programs that are developmentally responsive to early adolescent needs and are preparing students for the rigors of high school. The team concept and teacher committee structures continue to be an excellent avenue to address both issues. This school year was filled with numerous successes and accomplishments, yet YSMS will continue developing building goals to address increased academic achievement and individualized student growth.