

LEONIA MIDDLE SCHOOL



2017-2018 SCHOOL STATISTICS

Designated in 2014

Re-Designated in 2018

Community Size - Suburban

School Enrollment - 535

Grade Levels - 6, 7, 8

School Calendar - Traditional

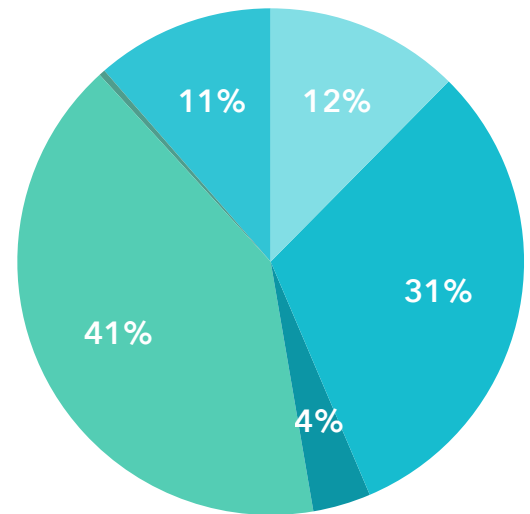
Free and Reduced Lunch 13.1%

English Learners 4.9%

Students With Disabilities 12.9%

Leonia Middle School
Leonia Public Schools
500 Broad Avenue, Leonia, New Jersey, 07605
Tel (201) 302-5231
Principal - David Saco
lms.leoniaschools.org

2017-2018 School Demographics



School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- From Leonia Middle School's 2017 NJ School Report Card: LMS met our annual school wide performance targets in English Language Arts and Mathematics. In both content areas, our school wide percentage of students meeting or exceeding performance expectations outpaced the state average by at least 16 percentage points.
- In 2010, LMS became a Columbia University Teacher's College Reading and Writing Project School. The goal was to improve student reading and writing as evidenced by the quality of

individual student work across the curriculum. In 2013, LMS was deemed a Teacher's College Exemplar School. Since then, LMS has hosted a number of day-long professional development workshops for groups of teachers and supervisors from surrounding district middle schools, some embarking on their first year as a TCRWP Project School themselves. Our guests watched our teachers at work in their classes, and had time to ask questions of LMS teachers and administrators.

- Leonia's Public Schools use a data driven approach for academic decision-making. LMS Teachers have immediate access to Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) benchmark data, PARCC scores, and guided reading running record leveling data. Using these data to inform classroom instruction we have seen an increase in LMS students who meet or exceed their individual average growth targets in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

Developmental Responsiveness

- LMS has many supports in place for students who excel in academic courses, as well as for those who struggle. Academically at-risk students are identified using the aforementioned performance and growth data, and for them, specific strategies are put in place. These action plans are closely monitored by the children's academic Team of teachers, and are reviewed and modified by their teachers during Common Planning meetings. Additional academic supports for students include our Homework Club, peer tutoring, lunchtime and after school teacher assistance, as well as scheduled Language Arts Plus and Math Plus classes that provide additional instruction and supplemental support for those students who are identified as at-risk by the available data.
- The Leonia Middle School Advisory Program is our social learning component for all LMS students. Originally developed in 2011 with the goal of enhancing our school climate, the program has grown into a comprehensive social learning curriculum. The LMS Advisory Committee, made up of teachers, school counselors, and chaired by our Vice Principal, meets regularly to develop lessons based survey feedback from faculty and students. All students are assigned to a grade-level Advisory group, and each faculty member teaches a group for the entire school year. Topics include: respect, tolerance, bullying, appropriate social media use, power of words, trust, responsibility, citizenship, service, healthy relationships and friendships, career-readiness, and caring for others. Building skills, and growing our positive character traits is at the core of our Advisory Program.

Social Equity

- LMS was entered into New Jersey *Focus Status* monitoring in 2012. This drew attention to the achievement gaps among various sub groups at that time. LMS faculty, staff, and administration have done remarkable work since being identified as a Focus School. Our test score differences among our Asian, White, and Hispanic populations have been minimized, and in June of 2017 the NJ Department of Education saw fit to exit LMS from Focus Status.
- LMS offers Portfolio Program courses in each of the four Core subject areas. Students who opt into the application process, and are scheduled for Portfolio courses will experience a

class best differentiated for advanced rigor, and a deeper dive into content that the student may intrinsically seek.

- The LMS Leadership Team is composed of students, faculty, parents, and administration. This committee meets throughout the school year, and discusses a broad array of issues including school safety, academic programming, professional development, school climate and culture issues, and community involvement. The goal of the team is to identify areas of need of examination, and to make recommendations for growth to the larger school community.
- LMS students participate annually in the Peace Project sponsored by the Leonia Organization for Peace.

Organizational Support

- LMS has many school structures in place to insure smooth operation of the school that fosters teacher PLCs, accountability, respect, and academic growth for all students.
- LMS is organized into teams. Each teacher team member participates in our Intervention and Referral Services for students who are identified as being socially or academically at-risk. I&RS meetings are held with the entire team of teachers during common planning periods that are built into the master schedule.
- LMS has Team Leaders in place to facilitate meaningful discussions about student work and student progress. Team Leaders manage all I&RS meetings and action plans.
- LMS is entering Year 3 of our 3-year project to develop and implement a new master schedule. The goal for the new schedule will be to maximize our time and provide flexible scheduling that permits student choice and provides opportunities for enrichment, innovation, and support.
- Over the past three years LMS has installed Chrome Books in virtually every classroom. Having 1:1 student access to Chrome Books has allowed us to grow in our effective use of Google Apps for Education, Google Docs, and Google Classroom. The additional efficiencies have improved our faculty meetings, PLC meetings, and instructional learning activities.
- LMS has a very active Home and School Association which supports many initiatives within the school. Most recently, HASA has focused on workshop-style, performance-based assemblies that show the children the power of words, and demonstrate what distinguished relationships, both in person and on Social Media, look like.