

**BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESENTATION
MIDDLE LEVEL INITIATIVES
MAY 24, 2016**

By Lara Gonzalez,
Assistant Principal

AGENDA

- Our Focus for 2014-16
- Our Shared Vision for the Middle Level
- New Initiatives in our Academic Courses
- Updates in our Specialty Area Classes
- New Social-Emotional Learning Framework
- Highlights in Special Events & Extracurricular Offerings
- New Student Competitions
- Our Vision for 2016-17 and Beyond



September 2015

OUR FOCUS FOR 2014-16

- Develop a shared vision for best middle level practices with students, teachers, parents, and administrators
- Incorporate more student and parent voice into our work
- Emphasize team-building, team work, and transition
- Create a “school within a school” feeling



Middle Level Professional Development

SHARED VISION: SUCCESSFUL MIDDLE LEVEL STUDENTS



- Independent
- Motivated
- Empathetic
- Responsible
- Respectful
- Creative and Critical Thinkers



SHARED VISION: SUCCESSFUL MIDDLE LEVEL PROGRAMS

- Student-centered
- School environment is safe, inclusive and supportive
- Engaging, challenging and relevant curriculum
- Interdisciplinary teaching and learning
- Use of instructional technology



Challenge Day 2016

SHARED VISION: EFFECTIVE MIDDLE LEVEL TEACHERS

- Encourage and motivate students
- Understand the needs of young adolescents
- Create opportunities for group work
- Tailor lessons to diverse learning styles
- Provide interactive lessons
- Promote independent thinking
- Embrace technology



SHARED VISION: EFFECTIVE MIDDLE LEVEL TEACHERS

- Encourage and motivate students



2016 Nassau Zone Physical Education
Conference at Adelphi University

SHARED VISION: EFFECTIVE MIDDLE LEVEL TEACHERS

- Understand the needs of young adolescents



Instructional Support Team (IST)

SHARED VISION: EFFECTIVE MIDDLE LEVEL TEACHERS

- Create opportunities for group work
- Tailor lessons to diverse learning styles



8th Grade Fall Team-Building Trip

Technology – Rocket Cars



Algebra I

SHARED VISION: EFFECTIVE MIDDLE LEVEL TEACHERS

- Provide interactive lessons



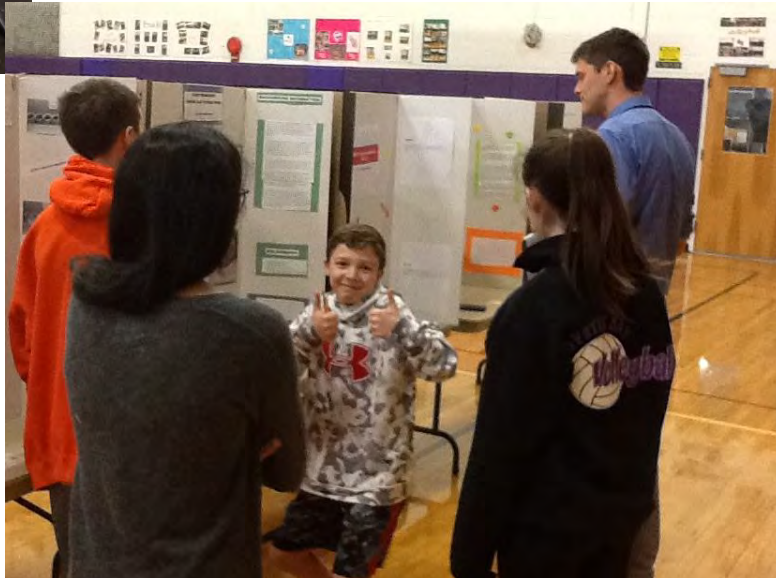
Science 7



Socratic Seminar in English

SHARED VISION: EFFECTIVE MIDDLE LEVEL TEACHERS

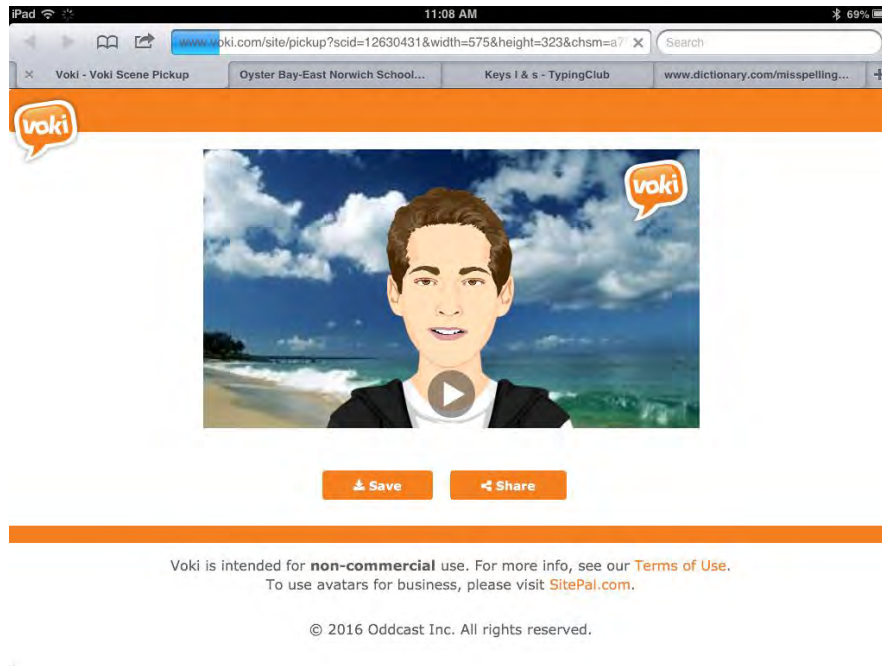
- Promote independent thinking



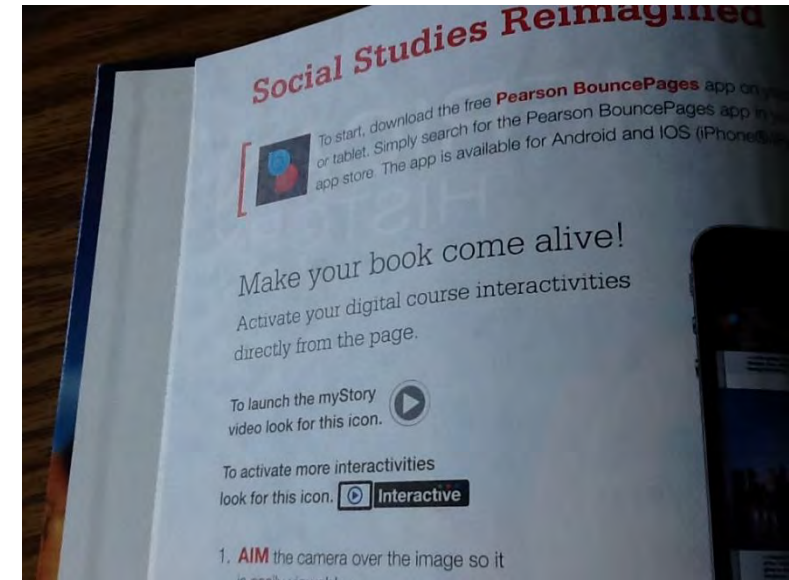
SHARED VISION: EFFECTIVE MIDDLE LEVEL TEACHERS

Social Studies 7 & 8

- Embrace technology



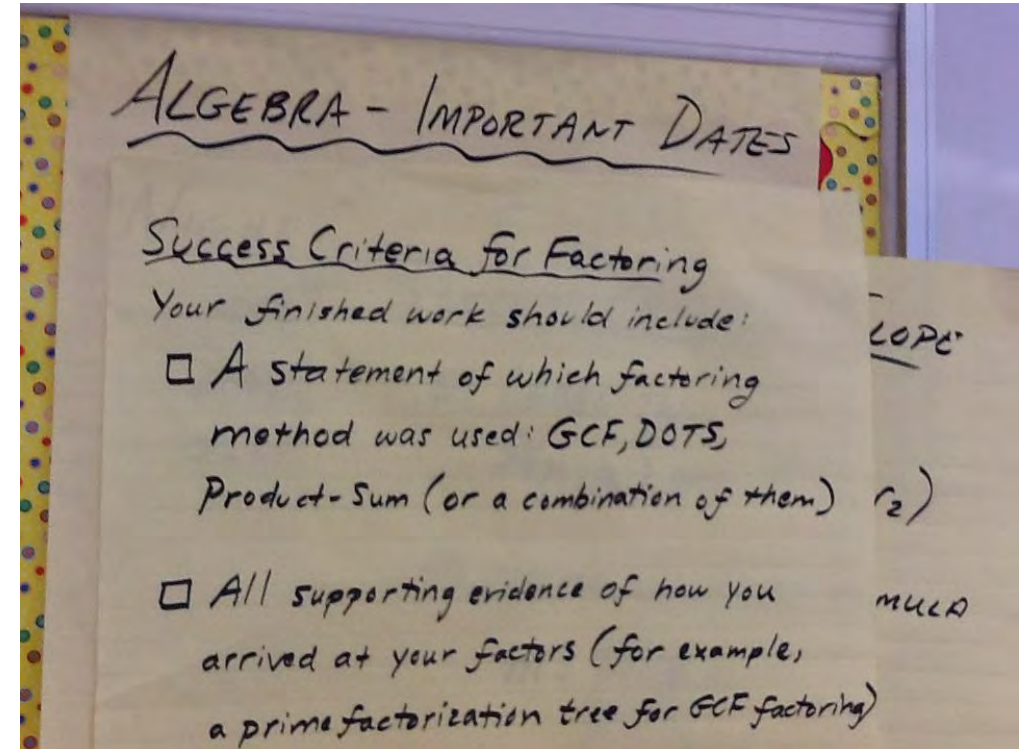
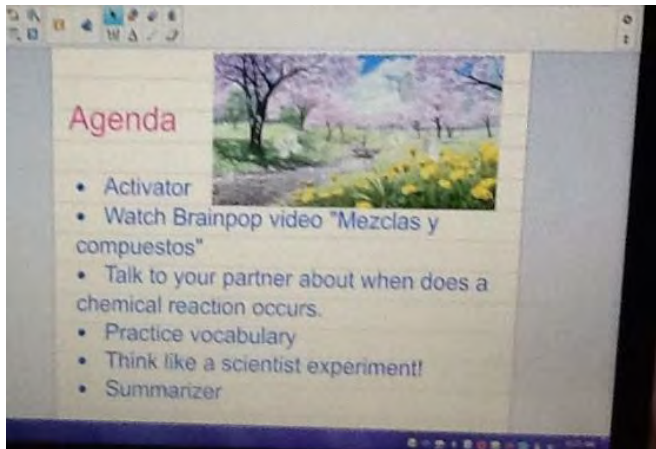
LOTE (Languages Other Than English)



“I love the Social Studies online flip videos for homework. They are fun and a perfect way to get more valuable outside information.”
...Veronica R.

NEW INITIATIVES IN CORE ACADEMIC AREAS

- Teachers implement new strategies: Agenda, Criteria for Success, Formative Assessment, “the most important thing...”
- Co-teachers (General Education, Special Education & English as a New Language) broaden their instructional repertoires



Research for Better Teaching Strategies

NEW INITIATIVES IN CORE ACADEMIC AREAS



- Students are encouraged to adopt a growth mindset
- Students assess their own learning and become more proactive about their education
- Students take advantage of Math and Writing Center during and after school

Math Center During Lunch

UPDATES IN SPECIAL AREA CLASSES

Teachers develop new units in the following classes:

- Home & Careers (public-speaking)
- Health (community service project)
- Literacy Connections (public service announcements & debate)
- Technology (LEGO Mindstorms Robotics)



LEGO Mindstorms – Technology 7

NEW SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING FRAMEWORK

Be Respectful

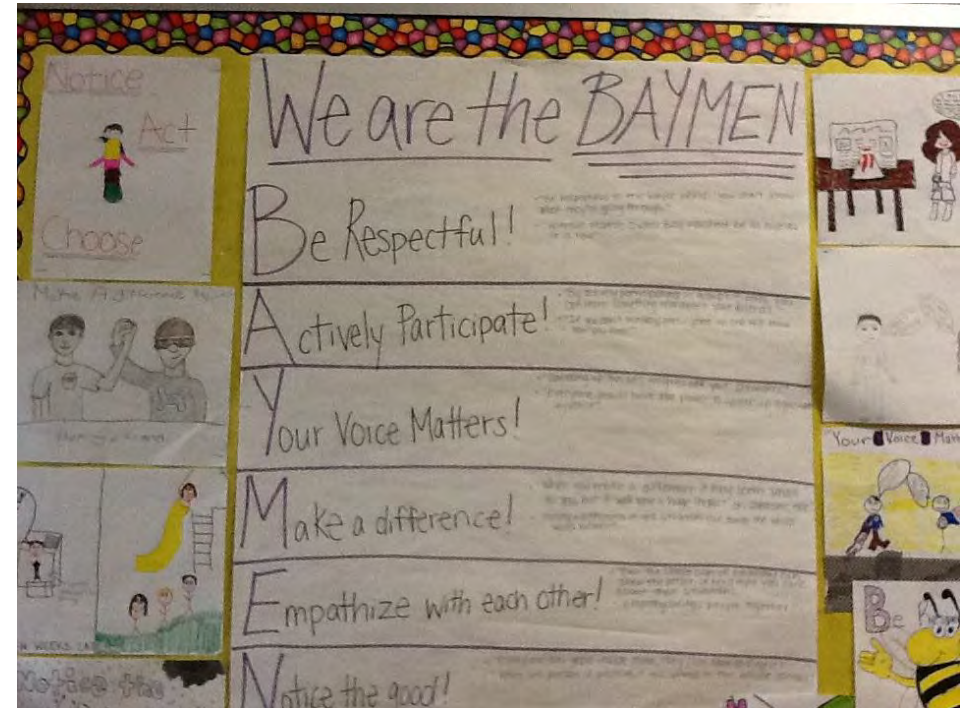
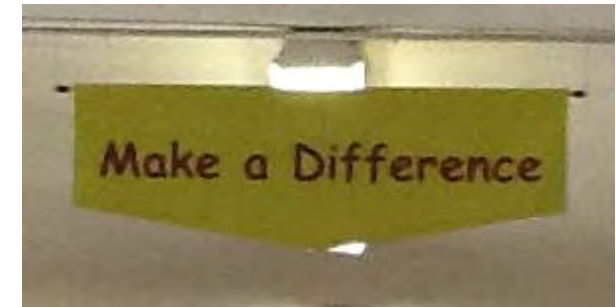
Actively Participate

Your Voice Matters

Make a Difference

Empathize with Each Other

Notice the Good



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

➤ Clubs

- Art Club
- Be The Change Club
- Chess/Gaming Club
- Literazzi Magazine
- Middle Level Mathletes
- Middle Level SADD
- Middle Level Student Council
- National Junior Honor Society
- Newsletter
- Odyssey of the Mind
- Robotics Club
- Theater Arts



Be the Change Club

NEW STUDENT COMPETITIONS

Science 7 Fair



Guppy Tank Finalists 2016
Home & Careers 8

NEW STUDENT COMPETITIONS

Robotics Club



NYSSMA Majors — 7th & 8th Grade Band

SPECIAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- Fall Team-building Activity
- 7th Grade Science Fair
- Teen Truth Assembly
- Challenge Day
- Middle Level Student Council Fundraiser
- Middle Level Leadership Conference
- Bay Cup Olympics
- 8th Grade Career Day
- 7th Grade Year-end Breakfast
- 8th Grade Year-end Celebration



Middle Level Student Council
Fundraiser Lazerland

8TH GRADE COLLEGE TOUR



2016 – College of New Jersey, UPENN, Swarthmore College, and Haverford College

EXPANDED OFFERINGS

- Middle Level Musical – “The Kids are the Stars”
- New Clubs (Mathletes, Odyssey of the Mind)
- “Guidance Days” with 7th graders in Home & Careers classes
- Introduction to Computer Science for 7th graders
- Expanded student leadership opportunities



“The Kids are the Stars”

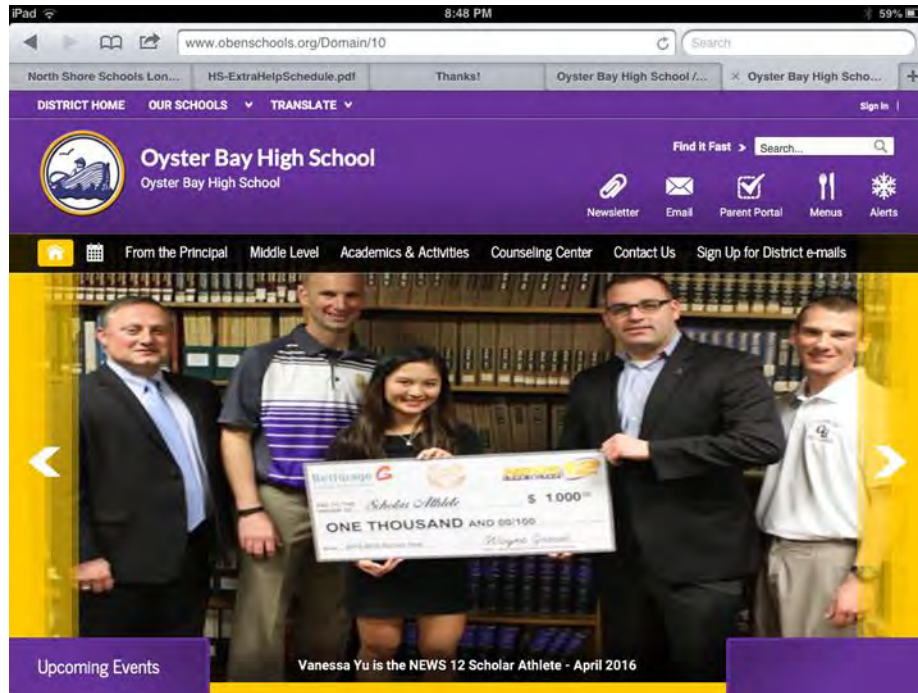
MORE EMPHASIS ON MIDDLE LEVEL SCHOOL SPIRIT & TEAM-BUILDING

- 7th Grade & 8th Grade BOCES Outdoor Education Center Visit
- Class of 2020 & Class of 2021 T-shirts (courtesy of the PTSA)
- Bay Cup Olympics
- Middle Level Student Council Fundraiser (Pasta Night 2015, Lazerland 2016)



Bay Cup Olympics 2015

ENHANCED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL



- Remind messages
- Middle Level Newsletters
- Middle Level tab on OBHS website
- Middle Level Advisory Committee

OUR VISION FOR 2016-17 AND BEYOND

- Develop interdisciplinary units with a focus on performance-based assessments
- Continue to add mini-units to our Special Area classes
- Consider possibilities for mentoring of students
- Expand our Middle Level Advisory Group
- Offer evening workshops on important topics for parents of middle level students
- Create a ninth grade field work experience

