

## **Executive Summary for York Suburban Middle School**

**York Suburban Middle School (YSMS) is located in the East York section of the school district. During the 2005-2006 school year, YSMS served 690 students: 222 in grade six, 226 in grade seven, and 242 in grade eight. The ethnic makeup of the middle school population was 83% Caucasian, 6% Hispanic, 7% African-American, and 5% Asian. The student population was comprised of 2.7% English Language Learners (ELL) and 8% learning support students. Additionally, 14% of the student population received free or reduced lunches.**

**The teaching staff of YSMS included 49 subject area teachers, five learning support paraprofessionals, four learning support teachers, a reading specialist, a math specialist, and a teacher of the gifted. These professionals were organized in seven teams that met daily to plan interdisciplinary, departmental and team activities and to review and monitor student progress.**

**To assist students with organizational and academic needs, a morning and after school peer tutoring program was available. Students requested to attend the morning program had organizational and homework completion difficulties. Students with severe academic needs were encouraged to attend the after school peer tutoring program. An after school homework club sponsored by teachers and paraprofessionals was available for all students needing additional support with homework assignments or for students wanting to remain at school to complete homework prior to returning to their homes at the conclusion of the school day.**

**While academic achievement was the primary focus of the middle school staff, social skills needs could not be neglected. To address the social pressures and challenges middle school students faced, all students participated in the PRIDE, anti-bullying program. Students attended quarterly assemblies and were assigned to an Alliance group. Each Alliance group was composed of 10-12 students in grades six, seven, and eight. The Alliance group met twice a month and was facilitated by a teacher trained in class meetings. Social skills topics were discussed in the class meeting format.**

**The students and staff of YSMS were supported by the Parent Support Organization (PSO). The PSO was an integral part of the total school program. The organization sponsored wholesome social activities for the middle school students and provided assistance and support for many team and school programs.**

**The staff of YSMS supports the mission and vision of the York Suburban School District. The strategic plan of YSMS was designed to complement the district goals in the following manner:**

**Goal 1: Ensure that all students are challenged, given opportunities for growth and are successful.**

**The middle school staff will:**

- ◆ **Utilize local assessments to track and improve student achievement**
- ◆ **Integrate and implement research-based programs in all content areas**
- ◆ **Prepare students to deal with real life issues**
- ◆ **Increase the involvement of at-risk students**

**Goal 2: In a fiscally responsible manner, provide a school infrastructure, environment, and climate that are supportive of learning.**

**The middle school staff will:**

- ◆ **Develop and implement a technology plan**
- ◆ **Promote a positive, safe, and accepting school**
- ◆ **Integrate multiculturalism**

**Goal 3: In a fiscally responsible manner, provide and maintain quality personnel, programs, tools and resources supportive of learning.**

**The middle school staff will:**

- ◆ **Implement teaching strategies that best meets the needs of all students**
- ◆ **Develop and implement a career and vocational curriculum**
- ◆ **Develop and implement an in-house teacher mentor program for all teachers new to the building**

**Goal 4: Engage and sustain the entire community in a school culture supportive of learning.**

- ◆ **Improve home and school communication to keep parents better informed**
- ◆ **Develop and implant various student programs with community assistance**