



E. N. PEIRCE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL ... A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

“Be Peirce Proud – Commitment – Pride – Teamwork” is our Peirce Middle School motto. By offering students many opportunities to achieve excellence through academics, extra-curricular activities, and athletics, we turn the words of this motto into action every day. Character and respect for others are encouraged through the Charger Club Program, which recognizes responsible behavior. Our Equity Team ensures that all of our students are exposed to a broad world-view of the many cultures and cultural experiences that adorn the halls of Peirce throughout the school day. Academics and the arts are nurtured in extracurricular activities ranging from MathCounts which makes learning math fun, to the Computer Club which provides students opportunities to explore computer applications in a fun, relaxed environment. Creativity and teamwork come together in our Drama Club, and Student Council sponsors social activities and support charitable organizations.

Sixth graders are welcomed with a summer orientation when they tour the school and meet school administrators, their counselors and other new students. Seventh grade students spend three days at Cape Henlopen on the Delaware Bay, where they participate in activities that enrich their knowledge of the environment and build trust. In conjunction with high school course selection, Realization Day provides eighth graders the opportunity to participate in activities geared toward assisting them in realizing their goals in high school. Eighth graders also enjoy an annual trip to the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire.

Our Walk of Fame by our outdoor flag pole honors all retired staff members. Peirce’s history is alive and well with time-honored traditions and new, exciting programs that encourage learning, acceptance and discovery.

E. N. PEIRCE MIDDLE SCHOOL is one of three middle schools in the West Chester Area School District that house students in grades 6 through 8. Located in West Goshen township, Peirce serves approximately 860 students with 84 professional staff members. All three middle schools have been awarded the Keystone Achievement Award for their commitment to academic success.

OUR COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM includes the core courses of language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. Each curricular area is aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards and is supplemented by standards-based programs in language arts, health, physical education, music, art, family and consumer science, and technology education.

GIFTED EDUCATION, as defined by state mandates, provides accelerated and enrichment programs to those students identified by test scores, teacher input, and curriculum benchmarks. Sixth graders may choose a reading enrichment module or participate in Knowledge Bowl. Seventh and eighth graders may choose from a variety of enrichment programs.

READING AND MATH SUPPORTS reflect the district’s commitment to meeting the needs of all children. Students performing below grade level in these subjects receive support from building specialists and may enroll in a Reading or Math Plus class. Proficient readers may begin world language study in the seventh grade. Accelerated math and English courses are offered to qualifying students.

A WORLD LANGUAGE PROGRAM is available to students starting in seventh grade who meet certain criteria. These students may begin studying French I or Spanish I in seventh grade, and either continue with French II or Spanish II, or change to another language in eighth grade. All students may begin studying French, German, Italian, Latin or Spanish in eighth grade. The high school program provides five or six years' study including Advanced Placement courses.

COMPUTER LITERACY courses integrate computer skills with practical academic and real-life applications. By the end of eighth grade, all students will have been exposed to digital-age literacy, effective communication, inventive thinking, and high productivity. The technology education curriculum includes computer-aided drawing, and construction and power technology. A module technology center is equipped with software and specific equipment to teach various applied topics. Under the district's 1:1 Computer Program, all eighth grade students are assigned a portable computer for use 24/7.

EXCEPTIONAL MUSIC PROGRAMS are available for students interested in participating in band, chorus, and orchestra. Exceptionally motivated students may participate in extracurricular opportunities such as Honors Chorus, Honors Band, Jazz Band, and Select Strings Orchestra. All music programs are supplemented by concerts and dramatic presentations.

STUDENT ASSESSMENTS, as mandated by the state, are administered each year to aid in diagnosing individual strengths and weaknesses. In 2014, all middle school students took the Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSA) exams in mathematics and reading. Eighth graders were also assessed in science and writing. Students enrolled in Algebra 1 took the Keystone Exam for that subject. The percentages of Peirce students who scored proficient or above in 2015 were: 52.3% in mathematics, 82.6% in ELA, 83.6% in science.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PROFILES (SPP) are issued annually from the Department of Education based on student achievement, academic growth and improvement, promotion and attendance rate. All sixteen district schools have been rated "Schools of Excellence" by the Pennsylvania Department of Education for receiving scores of 90 or higher in their 2014 School Performance Profiles (SPP). For the 2013-14 school year, Peirce received a Building Level Academic Score of 91.9. There were no SPP scores for the 2014-2015 school year.

INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS that include baseball, basketball, cross country, field hockey, football, lacrosse, soccer, softball, track, volleyball and wrestling are offered to seventh and eighth graders. A sixth grade intramural program includes many of the above activities. All athletes must complete a PIAA physical form and meet academic eligibility requirements to participate.

EXTRACURRICULAR CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES provide further opportunities for students to explore interests and become involved in their school.

Peirce students regularly earn medals in the Science Olympiad competition which requires teamwork to complete hands-on projects that draw on their knowledge of science and engineering. Peirce students have also won numerous awards in the annual History Essay Contest sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Other competitive activities include the Chester County Spelling Bee, MathCounts, and the annual Chester County Shakespeare Festival.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT is evident through the many service projects students and staff complete together each year. Garden beds, located on the school grounds, are tended by students with the harvest donated to the Chester County Food Bank. Popular annual service projects include Allyoop for Autism, Volleyball for Heart (Association), RunFar, Walk for Wellness, and "Pink" athletic games for the cure.

