

CAMBRIA HEIGHTS MIDDLE SCHOOL

2017-2018 SCHOOL STATISTICS



Designated in 2012
Re-Designated in 2015, 2018
Community Size - Rural
School Enrollment - 302
Grade Levels - 6, 7, 8
School Calendar -Traditional
Free and Reduced Lunch 44%
English Learners 0.3%
Students With Disabilities 15%

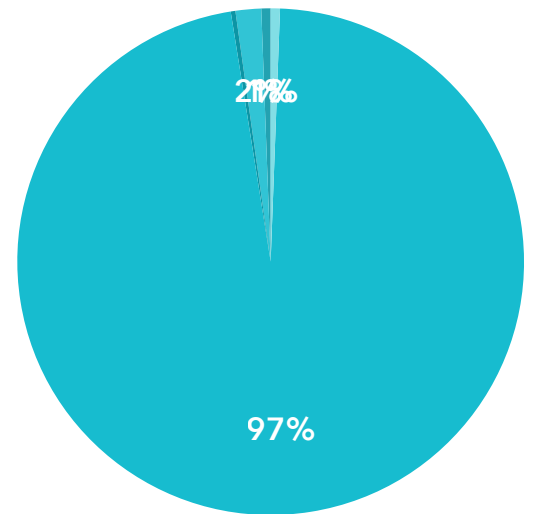
Cambria Heights Middle School
Cambria Heights School District
414 Glendale Lake Road
Tel (814) 674-6290
Principal - Jarrod Lewis
chsd1.org

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Implement the most up-to-date technology programs available to encourage the academic growth of all students.
- Incorporate Study Island which is a program that is much more closely aligned with the state standards.
- Dual platform of IXL.com has been instituted to also cover both math and ELA content.

2017-2018 School Demographics



- Hispanic 0.6%
- African American .3%
- Native American 0%
- Filipino 0%
- Other 0.6%
- White 98.3%
- Asian 0%
- Pacific Islander 0%
- Two or More 1.66%

- Wowzers is the newest technological tool that focuses on math and allows teachers to assess strengths and needs and assign lessons that focus on those specific areas of improvement. To ensure writing growth, CHMS continues to use the MyAccess program that gives students instantaneous feedback on their essays and unlimited opportunities to revise their work.
- In the constant search for new, innovative technological tools, CHMS will be implementing Boardworks which is a program that allows teachers to create interactive whiteboard presentations that can be used for multiple courses of study.
- Several new STEM initiatives have been employed to produce academic success.
- Computer courses have utilized the Hour of Code program which teaches students the basics of computer programming.
- Sixth grade science classes strengthened their coding skills by using coding to create science simulations through a free platform offered by MIT called Starlogo Nova.
- Through another initiative entitled Project Ignite, students were able to create electrical circuits, construct computer aided design (CAD) projects, and turn these projects into 3D printed objects to emphasize additive manufacturing practices.
- Students are challenged to utilize these 21st century technologies to formulate solutions by creating, designing, and implementing their solutions.

Developmental Responsiveness

- Teachers are constantly interacting with students on a daily basis, and because of this, they are often the first people to recognize the specific needs of their students.
- CHMS strives to provide teachers with the necessary information to help them to pinpoint these needs by arranging professional development opportunities for all faculty and staff.
- Inservice seminars have been offered on concussion awareness and management in a program entitled Brain Steps that is designed to help teachers recognize the signs of a concussion as well as outlining the steps necessary to accommodate students who have been diagnosed with a concussion.
- In addition to the Brain Steps presentation, teachers learned how to help students who are dealing with grief through a session conducted by The Healing Patch, a local organization that provides resources for students dealing with a traumatic loss.

- Stop the Bleed is yet another offering given to the CHMS faculty and staff. The goal of this program is to teach the steps necessary to control bleeding until emergency responders can arrive on scene.
- Life Skills training reaches all three grades and focuses on drug awareness, positive self-image, and conflict resolution.
- Remembering Adam sponsors the Pledge Together Program where students pledge to be drug free and agree to be randomly drug tested.
- For students who need extra help with their schoolwork, after-school tutoring is offered through the Respective Solutions Group (RSG).
- Dr. Russ Miller, along with a few medical students talked to the eighth grade students about the details, history, and prevention of Lyme disease which is common in rural areas.
- The Children of Peril in Education (COPE) program was created here at Cambria Heights to help those students who are not eligible to receive the benefits of learning support and who are not demonstrating that they are able to achieve success in the classroom.
- Another internal resource aimed at supporting middle school students is the CHAPS program. CHAPS is the student assistance program that is made up of a team of teachers who take referrals for students who are in need. These teachers review each referral carefully and devise a plan of action to get students the help they need using the internal and external resources available.
- Advisory groups have been developed to meet the needs of all of the eighth grade students and prepare them for the transition to high school.
- Advisory groups are student-led groups that meet once a rotation to participate in activities that are designed by the students and their advisors.
- Educating the whole student academically, emotionally, socially, and physically is the ultimate goal here at Cambria Heights.

Social Equity

- The faculty and staff have made an effort to overcome this lack of diversity by implementing classroom lessons, providing guest speakers, and sponsoring events that augment the curriculum to make students aware that the world is made up of many different people with very different views and backgrounds.
- Eighth grade students experience the Holocaust through an extensive unit including the discussion of different religious traditions, reading the novel “A Devil’s Arithmetic”, taking an

interactive tour of concentration camps, and researching and creating presentations about influential people, events, and important Holocaust topics.

- Students in seventh grade have benefited from their participation in The Global Lives Project, which provides a website that includes videos of many different people from many different cultures around the world.
- Students are required to take notes on the videos and compose a piece of writing that compares their world to the world of the different people in the videos.
- While studying Russia in geography class, students had the opportunity to taste caviar, and while studying oceanography, students conducted a Skype session with a former Cambria Heights student who is a part of Mission 31, which is an expedition led by Fabien Cousteau where the participants lived in an underwater habitat for 31 days.
- Students have celebrated Christmas with members from the senior citizens groups from surrounding towns in the area.
- A parent of a CHMS student who is an administrator at a local bank conducted a session on finance management which included information on loans and other personal finance topics.
- From the local universities, guest speakers have presented topics ranging from a professor from Saint Francis University sharing WWII material to a student from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown discussing careers in coding, which is a skill that all students worked on in computer class.
- Recent graduates from Penn State University who were former Cambria Heights students conducted a presentation on STEM careers.
- Dr. Lanika Ruzhitskaya, a Russian astronomer from Saint Francis University, talked about the world of astronomy and its real-world applications.
- On an international level, Dr. Harry Kloor, who is the first person to earn two PhDs simultaneously in two different academic disciplines, came to discuss the future of technology with the CHMS students.

Organizational Support

- Instruction at CHMS continues to be data-driven. Teachers collect and analyze data so that instruction can be focused on the areas where students show the most need.
- New technology that helps teachers with their data analysis has been implemented to include the most up-to-date technology available. Study Island provides both a math and an ELA section that students can use to hone their skills in each area.

- IXL.com is another resource that is web-based that students use to improve in both math and ELA content.

The math teachers at CHMS have started utilizing the Wowzers program in their courses to provide students with the necessary additional practice that they need to acquire the new math skills that they are expected to master at each grade level.

- Boardworks is another technology-based resource that teachers will be able to use to build interactive lessons for their students.
- MyAccess is an online writing tool that students use to improve their ability to write effectively. The Fountas & Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention(LLI) has become the main corrective reading program used to focus on student growth in the areas of decoding, fluency, and comprehension.
- LLI is designed as a supplement to the reading curriculum, providing daily, intensive small-group instruction for those students who are not succeeding at grade level and need a more individualized approach.
- CHMS partners with local universities such as Saint Francis University, Mount Aloysius College, and Indiana University of Pennsylvania.
These universities have recognized the dedication CHMS has to providing a strong educational experience for all of its students, and they want to expose these ‘future teachers’ to that same successful approach to learning.
- CHMS continues to build lasting relationships with other local entities as well. Two local organizations – the Patton Garden Club and the Highlander Foundation – recently issued grants to the science department to expand the youth gardening club, further enhancing the opportunities for hands-on learning within that department.