



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY
12234

Office of Curriculum and Instructional
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February 15, 2012

Steven Shuchat, Principal
Van Wyck Junior High School
6 Hillside Lake Rd.
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Re: Essential Elements Schools to Watch Recognition

Dear Mr. Shuchat :

On behalf of the New York State Department of Education and the Essential Elements Schools to Watch leadership team, it is my pleasure to officially congratulate you and the Van Wyck Junior High School community for being designated as an Essential Elements School to Watch (EE: STW). This prestigious designation recognizes your continued commitment to enhancing your school program and practices.

You have developed a model educational program in New York State that is consistent with the Regents Policy Statement on Middle Level Education, the Essential Elements of a Standards Focused Middle Level School, and the National Forum's Schools to Watch criteria. Through this rigorous application process and your successful endeavors, Van Wyck Junior High School will be recognized as both a State and National School to Watch.

Your school will be formally recognized and honored at the upcoming National Schools to Watch Conference, June 21st – 23rd in Washington DC. I hope you and a team from your school will be there for this prestigious honor. Information regarding this event will be sent to you under separate cover. The name of your school will be forwarded to the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform and our partner State associations so that it can be included in any formal announcements.

Enclosed you will find the summary report from your designation site visit. In addition you will find a designation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining the commitments your school community will have to make in order to accept this honor. Please gather the appropriate signatures and return the MOU in the enclosed envelope.

Once again, I extend my congratulations to your entire school community on this prestigious award and for your continued dedication to excellence and to student success. New York State is proud to name the Van Wyck Junior High School as a National and State School to Watch.

Sincerely,

Marybeth Casey

cc: Dr. James Parla