

Pleasant Valley Intermediate School

Pleasant Valley Intermediate School (PVI) is a large intermediate school located in a rural setting between the towns of Gilbert and Kresgeville, Pennsylvania. It was established in 2000. Approximately 1300 students, grades 5-7, experience many exciting opportunities on a daily basis in an environment that helps our students grow from cubs to bears.



Located in Polk Township, Pleasant Valley Intermediate offers 18 fifth grade, 18 sixth grade, and 20 seventh grade classes. The well-rounded curriculum includes Language Arts, Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies, Physical Educations, Health, Art, Technology, Integrated Library, Music, Instrumental Music and Chorus for all students; seventh grade students are also afforded elective classes in Spanish, German, Tech-Ed, and Family and Consumer Sciences. Our extra-curricular activities include before and after school remediation programs, seasonal musicals, athletics, choral/band concerts, and various content area based, social service, and recreational clubs

The intermediate school is home to 120 certified professional staff members. Certified professional staffs are complimented by 76 support-staff personnel. The building is administered by one principal and two assistant principals.

Pleasant Valley Intermediate provides four diverse educational settings to meet the diverse educational, social, and developmental needs of our student populations. Fifth grade students participate in a team learning community model consisting of two homeroom teachers. Sixth grade students participate in a four teacher learning model, while seventh grade students experience a learning team of five teachers. This dynamic serves to meet the developmental, academic, and social needs of Pleasant Valley Intermediate students as they transition from an elementary setting through an intermediate setting, to a middle school setting. All fifth grade students receive one hour of Math instruction and 90 minutes of combined Reading and Language Arts instruction daily. Sixth grade provides for one hour each of Math, Reading, and Language Arts instruction for each student daily. Seventh grade operated with a secondary schedule, with all students on a 42 minute rotating class schedule within instructional teams of five teachers. All Pleasant Valley Intermediate students are afforded 40 minutes each of daily instruction time devoted to remediation and/or enrichment activities. In conjunction with Colonial IU 20, Pleasant Valley Intermediate provides programs for special needs students via self-contained autistic support and emotional support programs. Pleasant Valley Intermediate also houses a district operated self-contained life-skilled for students in grades 5-7.

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT

In 1990, the Pennsylvania Department of Education introduced the Instructional Support Team initiative. This initiative represents a comprehensive statewide system to address the diverse learning needs of those students who become frustrated or lose interest and struggle during their elementary school years. Our students have benefited from a successful Instructional Support process.

The Instructional Support process is an innovative program in which tools are used to maximize individual student success in the regular classroom. The Instructional Support Team (IST) may use this process as a screening for students who may be in need of special education services. The Instructional Support process is a positive, success-oriented program that uses specific assessments and intervention techniques to help remove educational, behavioral, or effective stumbling blocks for all students in the regular classroom.

The IST asks the question, "What resources can we use to increase the student's chance of success?" This question is answered through a team approach that provides for greater cohesiveness, coordination, and instructional continuity. Every effort is made to complement existing curriculum and instructional programs.

Teachers, support staff, or parents/guardians can initiate the Instructional Support process. Once a student is referred for team support, the IST teacher will contact the parents/guardians, observe the student in the classroom, conduct an academic assessment, and schedule an "Action Planning" meeting. Parents/guardians are an integral part of the team and are present at all meetings. IST teachers are available to answer questions or concerns throughout the process.

The goal of PVI is to create and maintain a system that enables all children to meet with success. This process is accomplished by determining what works for each child through the collaborative efforts of the school, home and community. We believe that all children belong and learn best with their age appropriate peers. We also believe that it is our responsibility to educate all our children in an optimal educational environment that addresses their academic, social, and emotional needs. Children identified as having special needs will receive additional support through special education working with the classroom teacher. In this way, all children can benefit while learning to appreciate diversity.

PVI encourages parents to become involved in the educational process, through communications with teachers and administrators and involvement in the many organizations that are active in the school.

Features of the School Program at PVI:

- Accreditation and certification by the Middle States Association and the Department of Education
- Active parent involvement through PAC, PTO, and other committees and activities
- Instructional Support Program offering academic services to students
- S.H.A.Re, and many other student support services
- After-school study skills programs
- After-school intramural program

PBS (Positive Behavior Support)

The Pleasant Valley Intermediate "Gimme 5" program was created to encourage and support positive student behavior at PVI and, therefore, provide a safe environment where high expectations for student achievement are consistently met and recognized. The program reinforces our belief that by teaching our

students to understand situations that trigger problem behaviors, we can teach them effective solutions to maintaining more socially appropriate behavior. The core beliefs of the "Gimme 5" system are identified by five themes or student expectations, including:

Students will always show **RESPECT**.
Students will always act **RESPONSIBLY**.
Students will always work to **MAKE GOOD CHOICES**.
Students are expected to **TAKE PRIDE IN WHAT THEY DO**.
Students will always be **READY TO LEARN**.

Students earn "Gimme 5" tickets when they display these expectations, and may redeem their tickets at the PBS Zone for positive rewards.

S.H.A.R.E.

Students who are experiencing barriers to education due to home issues, mental issues, physical issues, or chemical dependence can be referred to the S.H.A.R.E. team. Referrals are confidential and may be made by students, teachers, parents/guardians, administrators, and support staff. The S.H.A.R.E. team gathers information on the referred student. School based information is collected on attendance, discipline, nurse's reports, academic performance, and feedback from teachers. After the data is gathered, the team will attempt to match the needs of the student with any one of several county agencies, or may simply make guidance aware of the student's needs. Other intervention strategies may include parental contact, support groups, or individual counseling.

PVI Vision Statement

The Pleasant Valley Intermediate School, as a link between childhood and adolescence, will provide all students with tools to enable success within our district, thus establishing the foundation to be critical thinkers, problem solvers, and conscientious citizens in adult life.

