

**Pocomoke Middle School, Pocomoke, Maryland**  
**Worcester County Public Schools**

**Demographics:**

**464 students, grades 4-8; 48% African American, 48% Caucasian; 61% free/reduced meals; 10% special education**

Pocomoke Middle, a multiple award winning school, is located in the southernmost town on Maryland's Eastern Shore in Worcester County. The school is unique in that it provides an elementary program for students in grades four and five and a middle level program for students in grades six, seven, and eight. The mission of the Pocomoke City Schools works hand-in-hand with Pocomoke Middle School's vision, which is rather pointedly stated as, "No Throw-away Kids!" The vision is fully realized through the dedication and commitment of the school community, who continue to regard the potential failure of any student as unacceptable. For the past ten years, the staff has used the kid friendly theme, "Respect + Responsibility = Pocomoke Pride!" on a daily basis to reinforce the academic and behavioral expectations for students. Pocomoke Middle School received full accreditation by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools in spring 2004 and again in fall 2011.

**Mission Statement:** The Pocomoke City Public Schools, an enthusiastic rural learning partnership of parents, educators, and community agencies, empowers all students to meet rigorous academic standards and to develop into responsible, involved, lifelong learners who can excel in their endeavors, contribute positively to their society, and fulfill their personal dreams.

**School Highlights and Awards:** The 2010 school year began with Pocomoke Middle School being featured on **NBC's Today Show** as a rural school that exemplifies the challenges a typical rural middle school faces, along with the great innovative programs/approaches being implemented in order to overcome those challenges and achieve at higher rates! Mid-way through the year, PMS was selected to receive the 2011 **John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts School of Excellence in Arts Education** Award. We concluded the year being named an **International Model School!** In 2009, Pocomoke Middle School was highlighted on the National Department of Education's Doing What Works website and became a National Reference site for Scientific Learning Corporation. In 2008, PMS was named one of ten NASSP Breakthrough Schools in the country. In addition, the school has received recognition as a PBIS (Positive Intervention and Support) Exemplary School, Maryland Character Education School, National Schools of Character Semi-finalist, National High Flying School, and Governor's Green School. Other honors include National Character Education Partnership Promising Practices Citations, MASCD After-school Program of Excellence and Character Education Program of Excellence, Maryland Community Forest Council and the Maryland Forest Service Silver Award, and Governor's Family Fitness Gold Certificate of Achievement. PMS was also one of nine high achieving/high poverty middle schools to participate in a national study of effective schools.

**Special Programs:** Arts Immersion; Full Inclusion; Mentoring; Wellness Counseling; Brave Bucks; Student Faculty Advisory Board; Environmental and Water Safety Program; Teacher Cadets; Quarterly Recognition; Honors Nights; Tech Fest; Science Fair; Geography Bee; Intervention Courses/Software, including SOAR, Fast ForWord, Success Maker, Study Island, and Bridges to Algebra; Algebra I, and Algebra II; Book It; Accelerated Reader

**After School Programs:** Pocomoke Pride Academies provide intervention, enrichment, recreation, and club opportunities, including, but not exclusively, Math, Engineering, and Science Academy (MESA); Builder's Club; Engineering Club; Robotics; Yearbook; SADD; Just for Girls; Mentoring Young Men for Excellence; and Intergenerational Reading.

**Parent Involvement Opportunities:** Volunteer Program, Parent & Community Involvement Action Team, School Improvement Advisory Council (SIAC), PTA, Pocomoke Pride Advisory Committee, Ministers Gathering, New Family Night, Student of the Month Program, Grade Level Quarterly Recognition Assemblies, Moms/Dads/Grandparents to Lunch, Ice Cream Social, MSA Night, After-school Parent Activities, Parent Conferences in conjunction with Family Activities, Dads and Sons Dinner & A Movie, Moms and Daughters Jewelry Jamboree

**Principal:** Mrs. Caroline Bloxom **Assistant Principal:** Mr. Bryan Perry

**Extended School Administrator:** Mrs. Jane Chisholm

**Staff:** 3 administrators, 46 teachers, 2 guidance counselors, 1 media specialist, 1 curriculum planner, 2 instructional coaches, 3 itinerant staff (psychologist, speech, ESOL), 1 technology coach, 10 educational assistants, 1 nurse, 3 secretaries, 5 food service personnel, 5 custodians

**Address:** 800 Eighth Street, Pocomoke, MD 21851

**Phone:** 410-632-5150

**Fax:** 410-632-5159

**Web Site:** [www.pocomokemiddle.org](http://www.pocomokemiddle.org)

**School Day:** Regular day is 8:00 AM - 3:10 PM; After- school Academies meet 3:10 PM - 5:30 PM

**School Built:** 1970 **Addition:** None **Total Size:** 87,600 sq. ft. **Site:** 21 acres

**Pupil/Teacher Ratio:** 16: 1 (grs. 4-5) 16:1 (grs. 6-8)