

State of the Community

Strategic Planning Report

March 2015

Middletown Township Public Schools

State of the Community Report Committee Members:

Charlene O'Hagan, Co-Chairperson, Community Member, District Director of Curriculum for Humanities K-12

Margie Criscione, Co-Chairperson, Parent/PIC, Representative Navesink School & New Monmouth School

Michael Sweeney, Co-Chairperson, Community Member, Budget Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chair

Ellen DeMaio, Community Member, Central Office Staff

Steven Graziano, Principal, Lincroft School

John Little, Parent/PTO Member Fairview School

Susan Meehan, Community Member, Teacher, Leonardo School

Thomas Olausen, Community Member, Principal, Thorne Middle School

Vera Piasecki, Parent/PTA/PFA Member, Nut Swamp School & Thompson Middle School, Budget Ad Hoc Committee

Kimberly Pickus, District Director of Evaluation and Assessment K-8

Tara Raspanti, Principal, Bayview School

Dawn Turanski, Parent/PTA Member, Nut Swamp School & High School South

Kristin Valinotti, Parent/PTO President, Harmony School

Marla Weinstein, Teacher, Middletown Village School & Fairview School

Karen Zupancic, Community Member, Principal, Middletown Village School

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REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE COMMUNITY

Middletown Township, Monmouth County, New Jersey - March 2015

Community Profile

Middletown Township, the earliest English-speaking settlement in New Jersey, currently has a population of nearly 70,000 residents living within its 42-square miles comprised of distinctive neighborhoods including Belford, Fairview, Leonardo, Lincroft, Middletown Village, Navesink, New Monmouth, North Middletown, Oak Hill and River Plaza.

With its rich, 350-year history, Middletown Township includes five designated historic districts: Chapel Hill, Locust, Monmouth Hills, Navesink and Middletown Village.

The median family income within the Township is \$120,695, with only 3% of its residents living below the poverty line.

The Middletown Township Public School District (MTPS) is comprised of 17 schools, including two high schools, three middle schools and twelve elementary schools with a total enrollment of approximately 10,000 students. Middletown also hosts High Technology High School, and the Marine Academy of Science and Technology, which are part of the Monmouth County Vocational School District. Educational opportunities within the Township also include two private high schools, three private elementary schools and Brookdale Community College.

The Middletown Township Public Library is a fully equipped, state-of-the-art facility offering all the resources needed for reference, research and general reading, while also offering a wide variety of instructional classes and cultural programs.

The Middletown Township Arts and Cultural Center serves over 40,000 patrons with more than 700 programs for children, adults and those with special needs, including art, dance, music and theatre.

Forty-eight Township parks offer tennis and basketball courts, playground equipment, athletic fields and/or picnic areas. Youth athletic programs include baseball, basketball, football, hockey, lacrosse, soccer, tennis and wrestling. Extraordinary County parks also located within Middletown Township include Bayshore Waterfront Park, Deep Cut Park, Hartshorne Woods, Huber Woods, Monmouth Cove Marina, Sunnyside Recreation Area, Tatum Park and Thompson Park.

Tragedy and challenges have visited our community, including the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center, which claimed the lives of 37 Middletown residents. Middletown Township was significantly impacted by both Hurricane Irene, which caused severe flooding and damage to infrastructure and structures in late August 2011, and Superstorm Sandy, which impacted the entire Township and caused particularly catastrophic damage in the Bayshore area in late October 2012. The impacts of these storms, particularly Sandy, will be felt for years to come as the Bayshore neighborhoods of the Township face numerous challenges related to dwelling and business reconstruction, long-term neighborhood stability and housing affordability.

With an abundance of recreational, educational and cultural amenities, as well as convenient train service to Newark, Liberty International Airport and New York City, it is clear why Middletown Township has been cited as a best place to live in the country by *Money Magazine*.

Historic and Cultural Resources

The Township of Middletown celebrated the 350th anniversary of its founding with Middletown 350, a town-wide celebration of the township's settlement in 1664, which began with Middletown Day 2013, and culminated with Middletown Day 2014. Throughout those 350 years, there has been much history made here. Some areas that present opportunities to visit and learn about Middletown history and culture are included below:

Historical Resources

Murray Farm House, Poricy Park

The Murray Farmhouse and barn are located within Poricy Park. Built circa 1770, it was the home of Joseph Murray, a stonemason who immigrated to New Jersey from Ulster County, Ireland in 1767 with his mother. He met and married Rebecca Morris. They had three boys named William, James and Joseph, and one daughter whose name is not known.

Murray was staunchly opposed to British rule, and joined the local militia in 1776. The home was raided by Tories in 1779, and Murray was sent to prison. Upon his release in January 1780, he returned to the militia. His militia was ordered to commandeer horses, and Murray is believed to have taken one from Marlpit Hall, the home of his neighbor and devout loyalist, Edward Taylor. Several months later, on June 8, Murray was returning home from working his fields when he was shot in the back and then bayoneted by three men who came out of the woods. It is believed that these men worked for Edward Taylor, and that they shot him in retaliation for stealing the horse. A plaque next to a flag pole at the site reads, "On June 8, 1780 at this site, Joseph Murray was murdered by Tories in retaliation for his daring patriot deeds." Joseph Murray is buried in the cemetery of Middletown's Old First Church.

Marlpit Hall

Marlpit Hall was the home of Edward Taylor. The house, which is currently operated by the Monmouth County Historical Association, was built circa 1756. Prior to the war, Taylor was a prominent citizen of Monmouth County. However, he remained loyal to the British during the war, and suffered several arrests and loss of prestige for it.

Throckmorton-Lippit-Taylor Burying Ground

Amongst the old gravestones of the Throckmorton-Lippit-Taylor Burying Ground (circa 1684) are those of Edward Taylor and his son Colonel George Taylor, who served in the local militia before choosing to serve with the British army. This is also the resting place of some of the earliest settlers of Middletown.

Middletown Series of British Retreat Route and British Campsite Markers

After the Battle of Monmouth, British troops under General Henry Clinton retreated towards Sandy Hook, where they embarked for New York on July 5, 1779. This series of signs marks the retreat route of the British through Middletown on June 29, 1779, the day after the Battle of Monmouth. It begins on Church Street, and then heads east on Kings Highway.

Following these signs will lead you to the area which is marked with two different sets of British Campsite signs.

Old First Church and Cemetery

The current church building circa 1832 is actually the third to stand at this spot since the church was established in 1688. According to the church's historian Elaine Lent, "Earliest historical references to the present church site give vague mention of a significantly earlier 17th Century building which may have originally served as the first Middletown Village meeting house and also as a place of worship. A piece of structural wood from the lowest level of the church has been radiocarbon dated to circa 1635, predating by 53 years the formal organization of the Middletown Baptist Church in 1688. A number of artifacts from the late 1600s have been unearthed beneath the present church sanctuary. The earliest wooden building was destroyed by fire sometime in the early 1700s. The second wooden church structure on the site (circa 1735-1832) was standing at the time of the American Revolution. Following the destruction of the second wooden church by fire, the present church we see today was constructed in 1832. At 325 years of age, Old First Church represents the oldest, continuous Baptist congregation in New Jersey.

Seabrook-Wilson House, Bayshore Waterfront Park

The house, nicknamed the "Spy house" by locals, was begun circa 1720, and was expanded through a series of additions. After five generations of Seabrooks, the place became the home of William V. Wilson in 1855 when Wilson, preacher, farmer and investor in steamboat companies, married into the Seabrook family. The once-isolated farm became part of an expanding village with the arrival of steamboat service and, in 1860, the Raritan & Delaware Bay Railroad. At that time, Shoal Harbor was renamed Port Monmouth. In 1967, after almost 50 years as an inn and tavern, the dilapidated building was bought by the Township of Middletown and opened as the Shoal Harbor Marine Museum. The Monmouth County Park System restored the house in 2009 as the Activity Center of the 227-acre Bayshore Waterfront Park where it now hosts nature and history programs.

Sandy Hook Lighthouse & Fort Hancock

Sandy Hook is a spectacular natural environment that has appealed to visitors for centuries. Its rich history embraces maritime, lifesaving, military, recreational and scientific roles. The Hook's prominence began with the 1764 completion of its lighthouse, the oldest standing and operating lighthouse in the United States.

Located on New Jersey's Sandy Hook peninsula, Fort Hancock was the site of the nation's first artillery proving ground. It was also the site of numerous seacoast fortifications dating from both the 19th and 20th Centuries.

Although the coastal defenses were removed during the late 1940s, anti-aircraft gun batteries soon replaced them. These gun defenses were later replaced by Nike missiles.

The Fort Hancock Nike site, Nike Battery NY-56, was activated during 1955. This four magazine double site could track and engage two targets simultaneously and was in operation through 1974. Historic Fort Hancock, including its Cold War era Nike facility, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Cultural Resources

Middletown Arts Center

The Middletown Arts Center, located next to the Middletown Train Station on Church Street, began its life as the late Ed Banfield's moving and storage warehouse. When the township first purchased the property in 1998, the need for an additional indoor recreational facility was identified. Middletown Township had many sports-related programs and facilities, but there were no arts-

related programs for its residents. The Banfield site was particularly attractive because of its proximity to the train station and centralized location. In response to resident feedback, the decision was made to convert the dilapidated commercial space into a flexible recreation space suitable for a wide range of artistic and cultural activities. The project was completed in two phases. The first phase of construction included various site improvements, a 9,000-square-foot addition to the existing 14,000-square-foot warehouse, a new roof, and the exterior facade. The second phase of the construction completed the interior. The Middletown Arts Center opened its doors to the public in March, 2007.

Township and Community Traditions

911 Memorial - The Middletown WTC Memorial Gardens are located next to the Middletown Arts Center. The memorial features a landscaped walking path with individual memorials for each resident lost. The Gardens are open daily from dawn to dusk.

Middletown Day - This annual fall festival boasts activities for all ages including a business and community showcase, car show, craft fair, live local music, children's activities, a petting zoo, hayrides and a food court.

The Great Race - All Middletown schools participate in this event to raise money for their school and compete for the coveted "Most School Spirit" red, white, and blue banner.

Halloween Hullabaloo – Co-sponsored by the Middletown Recreation Department, Middletown Arts Center and Poricy Park Conservancy this event includes candy, costume contests, cartooning with the Doodle Dude, haunted hayrides, a scavenger hunt and more.

Turkey Soccer Shootout - This annual event helps to gather food donations for Middletown Social Services, to be distributed to residents in need. All participants are encouraged to bring a nonperishable food to donate. The winning player in each age category receives a medal and a turkey.

North/South Thanksgiving Day Football Game - On Thanksgiving Day the two Middletown high schools face one another in a football game. The rivalry dates back to when what was once Middletown High School was divided into Middletown High School North, and Middletown High School South. The first game was Fall of 1976.

Holiday Tree Lighting - Every year the township kicks off the holiday season with an exciting tree lighting ceremony. All will enjoy select acts from the Winter Wonderland Variety Show. Funded and managed by the Middletown Township Cultural and Arts Council.

Dodge Ball Tournament & Toy Drive - This event is sponsored by the Middletown Township Department of Social Services, and participants in the family dodge ball tournament bring unwrapped toys to be distributed during the holidays.

Breakfast with Santa at Jacques Catering Hall - Families and friends come together to have breakfast and visit with Santa.

Christmas Train Ride with Santa - Families ride the train that leave and return to the Middletown Train Station as they sing Christmas carols and visit with Santa.

Eggstravaganza & Egg Decorating Contest - Families come together for an Easter fun filled day. Parents bring a camera to take pictures of their children with the Easter Bunny. There is also strolling entertainment, a petting zoo, arts and crafts projects and an egg decorating contest.

Government/Political Environment

Local Government

Middletown Township is located in Monmouth County and operates under a special charter approved by the New Jersey Legislature in 1971. It is governed by a Township Committee comprised of five members, each elected for a three-year term. The Committee member terms are staggered so as to assure that only one or two positions will be up for election each year over a three-year cycle. Township Committee elections are held in November, concurrent with the general elections.

After the election each year, the Township Committee schedules a reorganization meeting in order to select a Mayor and a Deputy Mayor from their ranks. The chosen people will hold their positions for one year.

The Township Committee serves as both the legislative and executive body of the township. The Committee has the responsibility for passing laws and setting policies that affect the township. The Middletown Township Committee for 2015 is as follows:

Mayor:

- Stephanie C. Murray (R)

Deputy Mayor:

- Stephen G. Massell (R)

Committee Members:

- Anthony P. Fiore (R)
- Gerard P. Scharfenberger (R)
- Kevin M. Settembrino (R)

A Township Administrator is appointed by the Township Committee to serve as the Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Public Safety for the township. He is responsible for carrying out the Committee's decisions and managing the day to day operations of the Township. In addition, the administrator directs and supervises all department directors, reviews the administration and operation of each of the 22 departments, oversees all employee contracts and negotiates and recommends to the Township Committee any measures he deems necessary for the efficient and effective management of the Township.

In addition, there are approximately two dozen boards, commissions and committees, all staffed by citizens appointed to support and serve the Township Committee. Board, committee, and commission members are appointed by the Township Committee for terms of anywhere from one to five years.

Federal, State, and County Government

Representing the people of Middletown on the federal level are:

In the U.S. Senate, New Jersey is represented by:

- The Honorable Robert Menendez (D)
- The Honorable Cory Booker (D)

Middletown Township is divided and is served by representatives in two Congressional Districts, the Fourth and the Sixth.

- Congressman Christopher Smith (R) represents the Fourth District in Washington.
- Congressman Frank Pallone (D) represents the Sixth District in Washington.

On the state level, the community is represented in the 13th Legislative District by:

- State Senator Joseph Kyrillos (R)
- Assemblywoman Amy Handlin (R)
- Assemblyman Declan O'Scanlon (R)

At the county level of government, Middletown Township resides in Monmouth County which is served by a Board of Chosen Freeholders. The Board is made up of five members, each elected to a term of three years. The terms are staggered to assure that each year in the three-year cycle in office; one or two Freeholders are slated for election. As is the practice with the Middletown Township Committee, the Freeholders also meet annually to select a Director and a Deputy Director to serve in that capacity for one year. Elections are held in November along with the general elections.

Politics

In 2011, there were 46,628 registered voters in Middletown Township. Of those, 21% were registered as Democrats, 25% registered as Republicans, while 53% registered as Unaffiliated. The remaining 1% of voters are registered in a variety of other parties.

Although the Republican Party holds a modest margin over the registered Democrats, the election results for the Township Committee positions has favored the Republican candidates for many years. As in most communities, voter turnout in election years without a presidential or governorship race is poor. So in many elections for Township Committee positions, it is the party that engages the community and rallies their supporters to get out and vote that prevails.

In spite of low voter turnout in those non-presidential years, there is always a spirited debate when candidates for either the Township Committee or the Board of Education meet. In Middletown, voters have a number of opportunities to meet with and to challenge the record of the incumbent and to test the knowledge of a new candidate on subjects important to the community. To serve a diverse and widespread community encompassing nearly 42 square miles and 70,000 people, candidates must be familiar with a wide variety of issues that affect the residents.

School/Local Government Relations

The schools and local government have a close relationship in Middletown. Many organizations and services are shared. These include the following:

Turf Fields

MTPS contributed the land and approximately \$250,000 towards the development of two turf fields. Middletown Township paid for the remaining cost of the installation of those fields. A turf field has been installed at Nut Swamp, and a second field at Croydon Hall is to be built, allowing district schools priority use.

Garbage and Recyclables

The township will pick up MTPS garbage and recyclables. MTPS pays the township a stable rate. There is a five-year agreement with the township for this rate.

Refueling Station

The township has a refueling station from which the MTPS purchases fuel.

Plumbers and Electricians

If the township needs a licensed plumber or electrician, the MTPS will provide one of their plumbers or electricians to work in the township buildings. This eliminates the need for the township to find licensed plumbers or electricians.

Mail Services

The MTPS facility department picks up the township's mail and delivers interoffice mail to the township buildings.

Police Department

MTPS and the Middletown Police Department work closely together to provide a safe and secure environment in each district school. There is a great deal of collaboration to create, review and revise security procedures and emergency management plans. The police also provide support to the schools by running programs for our students, staff and parents, such as a 10-day substance abuse awareness and decision-making program for all grade 8 students and presentations to parents and students on the dangers of social media and more recently heroin addiction. In addition, the police participate on our District Safe School Committee and are a routine security presence in our schools.

Municipal Alliance and Crossroads

The Middletown Municipal Alliance for the Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Abuse provides substance abuse awareness programs for students and parents. Project Plus, a grade 5 leadership program, teaches students to make good life decisions. The Reaching Out to Prevent Substance Abuse Program provides an open forum for students and parents to meet and discuss substance abuse with local educators, law enforcement officials, and counseling professionals. Crossroads provides intervention and referral services for all Middletown residents, including district students who are coping with substance abuse.

Township Organizations

Middletown is a diverse town comprised of different people, groups and organizations. The township organizations listed below are an integral part of our town. These organizations have a presence in the day-to-day lives of Middletown residents and students.

Collaborative/Non-Profit Organizations

Middletown Lions Club
Middletown Helps Its Own
Middletown Elks 2179
Knights of Columbus
Lady Knights
Lady Auxiliary Club
Policemen's Benevolent Association
Rotary Club
Women's Club
VFW
American Legion
Project Paul
Calico Cat
Holiday Express
Lunch Break Food Bank of Monmouth & Ocean Counties
UNICEF
Monmouth County Junior League of Voters
Monmouth County Education Association
Ancient Order of Hibernians
Middletown Newcomers Club
New Jersey Blind Citizens Association
Breast Intentions
Impact OASIS, LLC

Government/Police Organizations

DARE
Project Plus

First Aid Squads

Middletown First Aid Squad
Port Monmouth First Aid Squad
Leonardo First Aid Squad
Fairview First Aid Squad
Lincroft First Aid Squad

Fire Companies

Navesink Hook & Ladder Company
Brevent Park & Leonardo Fire Company
Belford Engine Fire Company
Community Fire Company
East Keansburg Fire Company
Port Monmouth Fire Company

Belford Independent Fire Company
Middletown # 1 Fire Company
River Plaza Hose Company
Lincroft Fire Company
Old Village Fire Company

Athletic Organizations

Bayshore Youth Athletic Association
Middletown Youth Athletic Association
Challenged Youth Sports
River Plaza Chargers
River Plaza Basketball
Lincroft Soccer
Lincroft Little League
Middletown Lacrosse
Middletown Ice Hockey
Middletown Soccer Club
Middletown Eagles
St. Mary's Athletic Association
New Monmouth Baptist Church's Upward Basketball
Various travel athletic teams

Youth Organizations

Boy Scouts
Girl Scouts

School-Centered Organizations

PTA
PTO
PFA

Assistance-Providing Organizations

Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide
CPC (Children's Psychiatric Center)
CCIS (Children's Crisis Intervention Center)
Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide
2nd Floor: Youth Helpline of New Jersey
CAP (Child Assault Prevention)
Mobile Response
Perform Care
High Focus Treatment Center
Traumatic Loss Coalition for Youth
Crossroads at Croydon Hall
New Hope Foundation
Manna House
Bayshore Family Success Center
YMCA Counseling and Social Services
DCP&P (Division of Child Protection & Permanency)
Monmouth County Guidance Directors

Family & Children Services of Monmouth County (Healthy Buddies & Reading Buddies, Project Sleigh Bells)

Environmental Organizations

Navesink Garden Club
Turning the Tides – Barnabas Health

Additional Organizations

Commission for the Blind
American Heart Association
Great American Opportunities
All for Books – Scholastic
Lincroft Village Green Association
Barnes & Noble Book Sale Fundraisers
The Association of the Blind Athletes of NJ
Go Red for Women
Team Life
Johnson & Johnson School Health Leadership Program
South Jersey AIDs Alliance
American Dairy Association and Dairy Council
Monmouth Cares
Meridian “Pawsitive Action Team” (Therapy Dogs)
AmeriCorps/United Way of Monmouth County
New Monmouth Baptist Church
National Association of School Nurses-VSP Vision Care for Sight for Students
The Mobile Dentist – Smile Programs
Middletown Public Library
American Cancer Society’s - Relay for Life
Susan G. Komen®
Girls on the Run
Bridge of Books
Monmouth University

Local, State, and Federal Funding

Operating Budget (10)	2014-2015	Budget	%
Local Sources:			
Local Tax Levy	\$128,779,398		
Other (e.g. Tuition)	\$500,000		
Total Local Sources		\$129,279,398	85.4%
State Sources:			
Adjustment Aid	\$6,694,364		
Special Education Aid	\$6,072,259		
Transportation Aid	\$2,893,232		
Equalization Aid	\$1,001,995		
Security Aid	\$837,191		
Extraordinary Aid	\$700,000		
Other	\$205,591		
Total State Sources		\$18,404,632	12.2%
Total Federal Sources			
		\$74,929	0.0%
Budget Sources:			
Fund Balance	\$1,998,169		
Withdrawal from Capital Reserve	\$1,700,110		
Total Budget Sources		\$3,698,279	2.4%
Total Operating Budget Revenues		\$151,457,238	

Grants & Entitlements (20)	2014-15	Budget	%
Local Sources	\$100,000		2.5%
State Sources	\$1,029,845		25.3%
Federal Sources	\$2,948,416		72.3%
Total Grants & Entitlements		\$4,078,261	

Repayment of Debt (40)	2014-15	Budget	%
Local Sources (tax levy)	\$4,080,945		74.5%
State Sources	\$1,398,310		25.5%
Total Grants & Entitlements		\$5,479,255	

Interesting Facts about Middletown's Seventeen Schools

Bayview Elementary School

- Year Built: 1957
- Total Enrollment: 408
- Mascot: Native American Indian - The Chaquasitt
- School Colors: Blue and White
- Motto or Slogan: "Where Kids Come First"
- Local Sites/Points of Interest: Bayview is located in the town of Belford, where around 1,800 residents from Middletown live. The town is 1.3 miles long and is famous for the Belford Ferry and Historic Junction. In early times, the junction served as a gateway to east and west Jersey as well as easy access to the sea.

Fairview Elementary School

- Year Built: 1931
- Total Enrollment: 301
- Mascot: The Owl
- School Colors: Blue and White
- Motto or Slogan: Students are taught to treat others with respect and to know that we believe in them.
- Local Sites/Points of Interest: Fairview is rich in history. Hall of Fame football coach, Vince Lombardi is buried in Fairview Cemetery across the street from the school. Fairview has more Italian and Irish ancestry people living in it than nearly any neighborhood in America.

Harmony Elementary School

- Year Built: 1961
- Total Enrollment: 503
- Mascot: The Hawk
- School Colors: Blue and White
- Motto or Slogan: "Fairness is giving a child what he/she needs, not treating them all the same."
- Local Sites/Points of Interest: Harmony shares property with Thorne Middle School, which is located on an old Middletown farm where Horace "Buddy" Thorne grew up with his family. The all-purpose room is named "The Hawk's Nest" and the second floor of the building is called "The Top of the Nest".

Leonardo Elementary School

- Year Built: 1931
- Total Enrollment: 232
- Mascot: The Leonardo Bear
- School Colors: Royal Blue and White
- Local Sites/Points of Interest: Leonardo State Marina, Croydon Hall Senior Center, house the Conover Beacon Lighthouse, Earle Naval Weapons Base.

Lincroft Elementary School

- Year Built: 1957
- Total Enrollment: 487
- Mascot: The Leopard
- School Colors: Blue and White
- Local Sites/Points of Interest: The Lincroft Inn on the corner of Middletown-Lincroft Road was originally a hotel and bar. The school was built on part of the original 350-acre tract of land that the Inn once owned.

Middletown Village Elementary School

- Year Built: 1941
- Total Enrollment: 413
- Mascot: The Griffin
- School Colors: each grade level has its own color paired with a unifying blue
- Motto or : “A Learning Community”, “Kindness Matters”
- Local Sites/Points of Interest: Historic District, Middletown Arts Center (MAC), Train Station, Marlpit Hall and the Covered Bridge.

Navesink Elementary School:

- Year Built: 1941
- Total Enrollment: 296
- Mascot: Native Americans
- School Colors: Blue and White
- Motto or Slogan : “Built on Tradition and Focused on the Future”
- Local Sites/Points of Interest: The Red Store that is over 100 years old, and the recently restored Crystal Stream Cemetery, which is affiliated with one of the oldest African-American church congregations in New Jersey. The land that the school is built on is owned by the Middletown Library Foundation. MTPS has a perpetual right to use of the land as long as the building remains in use as a school.

New Monmouth Elementary School

- Year Built: 1967
- Total Enrollment: 429
- Mascot: The Whale
- School Colors: Royal Blue and White
- Motto or Slogan: “Doorway to Success”

Nut Swamp Elementary School

- Year Built: 1965
- Total Enrollment: 574
- Mascot: The Tiger
- School Colors: Blue and White
- Motto or Slogan: “Learners Today- Leaders Tomorrow”

Ocean Avenue Elementary School

- Year Built: 1930 with renovations in 1960 and 1979
- Total Enrollment: 310

- Mascot: The Dolphin
- School Colors: Blue and White
- Motto or Slogan: “Believe in yourself: believe in Ocean Avenue School”
- Local Sites/Points of Interest: This Raritan bayside community was home to the Lenni Lenape Native Americans. The school was originally known as East Keansburg Elementary School. Its first principal was Mrs. Edith Cornelia-Briton, who also assumed the role of the sixth grade teacher.

Port Monmouth Elementary School

- Year Built: 1922
- Total Enrollment: 246
- Mascot: Kobi the Koala Bear
- School Colors: Blue and Gold
- Motto or Slogan: “Port Monmouth Pride! Believe...Achieve...Succeed”
- Local Sites/Points of Interest: Port Monmouth is home to the famous “Spy House” in Bayshore Waterfront Park. Built sometime around 1650 1648, The Spy House is one of the oldest structures in New Jersey and has been dubbed as one the most famous haunted houses in the country.

River Plaza Elementary School:

- Year Built: original building constructed in 1921 and addition was added in 1951
- Total Enrollment: 323
- Mascot: Olaf the Viking
- School Colors: Blue and white
- Motto or Slogan: “The Cornerstone of Middletown”
- Local Sites/Points of Interest: Charger Field, Shadow Lake, Red Bank Marina

Bayshore Middle School

- Year Built: 2001
- Total Enrollment: 642
- Mascot: Echo the Dolphin
- School Colors: Blue and Gold

Bayshore was originally Middletown High School in the 1920s and was one of the oldest schools in the District. A fire destroyed a wing of the building in 1963. It shares a building with Central Office, also known as the Board of Education.

Thompson Middle School

- Year Built: 2002
- Total Enrollment: 945
- Mascot: The Thompson Lion
- School Colors: Black and Gold
- Motto or Slogan: “Lions Lending a Paw”
- Local Sites/Points of Interest: Thompson Middle School is only two miles from the historic sight noted for the British retreat during the Revolutionary War. The Murray Farmhouse is also nearby, located at Poricy Park.

Thorne Middle School

- Year Built: 1962
- Total Enrollment: 736
- Mascot: The Lion
- School Colors: Orange and Black
- Motto or Slogan: “P.R.I.D.E. – Pride, Respect, Integrity, Determination, Excellence”
- Local Sites/Points of Interest: Thorne is the only school in New Jersey named after a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, Corporal Horace Thorne, who died in WWII during the Battle of The Bulge. The monument in the front of the school is the Battle of the Bulge monument, which was previously at Fort Monmouth and dedicated in May, 2011, with 90 veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and various dignitaries present.

High School North

- Year Built: 1957
- Total Enrollment: 1,477
- Mascot: The Lion
- School Colors: Orange and Black
- Motto or Slogan: “Middletown North, Home of the Lions”
- Local Sites/Points of Interest: Campbell’s Junction (original train station location) and McCormack Farms, one of the first organic farms in New Jersey.

High School South

- Year Built: 1976
- Total Enrollment: 1,427
- Mascot: The Eagle
- School Colors: Blue, White and Gray
- Motto or Slogan: “Middletown South Nation”
- Local Sites/Points of Interest: The legendary South Football Field is known as “The Swamp”. Some notable alumni include Brian Lynch, writer and director of films including “Big Helium” and Knowshon Moreno, running back for the Miami Dolphins

Parks and Recreation – Organized, Non-Organized & Private

Middletown is known for its beautiful parks, miles of breathtaking natural habitats, sprawling hills, rich vegetation and miles of sandy shore lines. Based on these geological benefits, Middletown has a canvas that has led to centuries of spectacular recreational and social land use. There are municipal parks and beaches that spread out over 42 square miles. Many locations offer tennis and basketball courts, playground equipment, athletic fields and or/picnic areas. Middletown is also the home of Gateway National Park on Sandy Hook. Sandy Hook, which was known as “Portland Poynt” before its hook formed, is a spectacular natural environment that has appealed to visitors from all over the tri-state area and beyond. It is home to the oldest continually lit lighthouse in the nation. Beach plums, which grow wild on Sandy Hook, were a delicacy of the Lenni Lenape Native Americans and the colonists. Thanks to Richard Hartshorne, an early Middletown resident, he made a pact with the Native Americans to preserve the beach plum plants, which can be spotted at this national park.

Bayshore Parks

Township Parks

1. Ideal Beach, Bayside Parkway, Middletown
2. Roosevelt Park, Port Monmouth Road, Middletown
3. Tonya Keller Community Center, Bray Ave, Middletown
4. McMahan Park, Alberta Avenue, Middletown
5. Gordon Court Park, Gordon Court, Port Monmouth
6. Butler Park, Port Monmouth Road, Port Monmouth
7. Greeley Park, Brainard Avenue, Port Monmouth
8. Belford Park, Main Street, Belford
9. Leonardo Beach, Beach Avenue, Middletown
10. Kunkel Park, Brevent Avenue, Leonardo

Monmouth County Parks

1. Monmouth Cove Marina, Port Monmouth Road
2. Bayshore Waterfront Park, Port Monmouth Road
3. Henry Hudson Trail and Activity Center, Route 36
4. Huber Woods, Browns Dock Road, Locust
5. Hartshorne Woods Park- Buttermilk Valley Entrance, Navesink Ave, Navesink and Claypit Creek Entrance, Locust Avenue, Locust

Northern Middletown

Township Parks

1. Crystal Pond Park, Main Street, Port Monmouth
2. Waloo Park, Main Street, Port Monmouth
3. Chanceville Park, Aberdeen Terrace, Port Monmouth
4. Church Street Park, Church Street, Belford

5. Countryside Park, Cherry Tree Farm Road, Middletown
6. Evergreen Park, Lone Oak Road, New Monmouth
7. Tindall Park, Tindall Road, Middletown
8. Schultz Park, Fairview Drive, Middletown
9. Shorecrest Park, Richard Terrace, Middletown
10. Bodman Park, Market Street, Middletown
11. Hillside Park, Chestnut Street, Leonardo

Central Middletown

Township Parks

1. Dorsett Park, Devonshire Drive, Middletown
2. Middletown Arts Center/WTC Memorial Gardens, Church Street, Middletown
3. Bicentennial Park, Route 35, Middletown
4. Applebrook Park, Iler Drive, Middletown
5. Fairview Soccer Fields, Oak Hill Road, Middletown
6. Normandy Park, Nut Swamp Road, Middletown
7. Poricy Park, Oak Hill Road, Middletown

Monmouth County Parks

1. Tatum Park, Red Hill Road
2. Deep Cut Gardens, Red Hill Road

Southern Middletown

Township Parks

1. West Front Street Park, West Front Street, Lincroft
2. Fairway Park, Middletown Lincroft Road, Lincroft
3. Middletown Township Thompson Park, Newman Springs Road
4. Lincroft Acres/Camp Hope, Orchard Hill Road, Lincroft
5. Wilmort Park, Washington Ave, Middletown
6. Nut Swamp Park, Orchard Road, Middletown
7. Stevenson Tract, West Front Street, Middletown

Monmouth County Parks

1. Sunnyside Recreation Area, Middletown-Lincroft Road, Lincroft
2. Thompson Park, Newman Springs Road, Lincroft

National Parks

1. Sandy Hook National Park

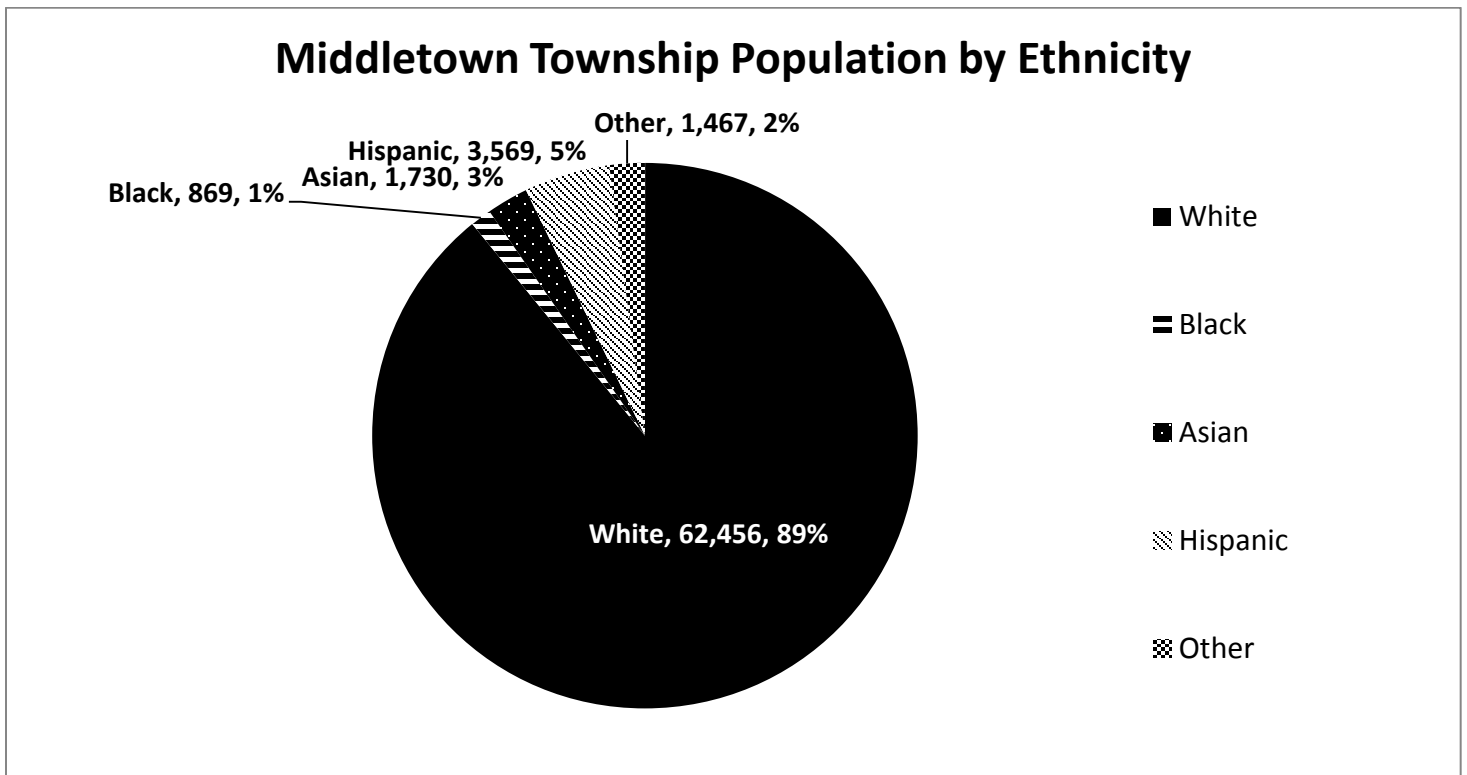
Demographics

Demographic Statistics for Middletown

- Middletown is approximately 42 square miles, including Sandy Hook.
- Middletown has approximately 22,000 housing units.
- Property taxes average \$8,293 and the median home value in Middletown is \$390,700.
- There is a wide range in home values within Middletown. In North Middletown, the average price per square foot and median sales price for homes was \$164 and \$234,000, respectively. In Lincroft, the average price per square foot was \$222 and the median sales price was \$499,900.
- Job growth is projected at 5.5% annually.

Population/Residents

- The population of Middletown approximates 70,000.
- The median age is 42.5.
- The median family income is \$120,695.
- Almost 42% of residents have a Bachelor's degree or higher.
- The population is predominantly white.



Planned Building/Development

Note: From a planning and development perspective, NJ law drives the process of reviewing development applications and the law favors land owners rights (municipal land use law). By law, development cannot be stopped due to traffic or school considerations. The Township meets with/informs the BOE of large residential developments (and in some instances re-development projects) that may impact the number of school aged children and the BOE determines school district.

Approved Construction

- Bamm Hollow (Lincroft, Thompson, HSS) 190 SFD (85-117 potential students)
- Taylor Lane (Village, Thompson, HSN or HSS) 245 MFD (34 potential students)
- Atlantic Pier (Navesink, Bayshore, HSS) 40 MFD (6 potential students)
- Meadowview (Bayview, Bayshore, HSN) 38 MFD (6 potential students)
- Tanglewood Farms (Fairview, Bayshore HSN) 29 SFD (13 potential students)
- Shoal Harbor (Senior Housing) 110 MFD N/A
- Cottage Gate (Navesink, Bayshore, HSS) 36-39 SFD (17 potential students)
- Elgohail 12 SFD (6 potential students)
- Ocean Heights 6 SFD (3 potential students)

Likely to be Approved

- Four Ponds (Lincroft, Thompson, HSS) 228 MFD (33 potential students)
- Mountain Hill (Fairview, Bayshore, HSN) 350 MFD (50 potential students)

The following are areas that could significantly impact school population/demographics:

- The township uses a multiplier of .45 for single family units and a multiplier of .14 for multi-unit dwellings to estimate the impact on our school enrollment. This multiplier is calculated as the number of school-aged children divided by the number of single- or multi-family housing units. Based on the township multiplier, the developments could add approximately 253 school-age children to the present enrollment. For example the Bamm Hollow development may add between 85 to 117 students.
- The recent announcement of impending closure of Mater Dei High School may impact high school enrollments.
- Memorial Sloan-Kettering is currently in the final stages for its plans to open a 285,000 square foot facility in Middletown. This new facility is expected to bring approximately 280 new jobs, and possibly new families, to the County. Construction has begun, with the center slated to open in 2016.
- Superstorm Sandy Aftermath
As of May 2014, 305 housing units in the Township (of which 40 were age restricted affordable units in Port Monmouth) have been determined to be “substantially damaged” post-Sandy, meaning that the cost for repairing a flood-damaged structure is greater than 50% of the structure’s value. The re-construction process is gaining momentum as grant funds from the State’s Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Elevation, and Mitigation (RREM) program are reaching homeowners. Approximately 120 property owners within the

Township have been awarded RREM grants, and another 170 or more remain on the waitlist. The areas still affected by the aftermath are Port Monmouth, Belford, and Leonardo, with Port Monmouth being by far the most affected at the current time.

Property owners who do not receive assistance for elevation projects, or those who did not meet the damage threshold to qualify for Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) money through their insurance, may not be able to afford to elevate their homes. These homes will face rising flood insurance premiums, and will remain vulnerable to future storms. According to the Township, it is still too soon to tell how Sandy will affect foreclosure and vacancy rates in the Bayshore, but as the assistance funding becomes exhausted; those who did not receive help will be faced with difficult life decisions.

The Township plans to continue to monitor the rebuilding process and assess the needs of these neighborhoods. The Department of Planning and Community Development is in the process of pursuing planning grant funds for several projects including a Community and Neighborhood Stabilization Plan for Sandy Damaged Areas, an environmental design plan to enhance the natural beachfront resources in the area and mitigate the impacts of future flood events, and A Hazard Mitigation Master Plan Element.

- **Stabilization of North Middletown**
One of the stated objectives of the Township’s Planning Board is to reinforce the long-term stabilization of the neighborhood of North Middletown, particularly regarding housing rehabilitation, public facility needs and infrastructure improvements. The North Middletown Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy (NRS) serves as a background study to the Township’s overall Master Plan in establishing policies to accomplish these objectives. The Ideal Beach Community Association (IBCA) was formed as a result of the NRS, and remains dedicated to improving the quality of life in the North Middletown community by taking on neighborhood planning issues on behalf of its residents through organized and coordinated, annual meetings with Township officials. One area of focus for the IBCA has been park development of Ideal Beach.

Demographic Statistics for the Middletown Public School District (Sources: Demographic Study 2013-2014 School Year, Updated Enrollments Provided by BOE, Township Resources)

- There are 17 public schools (2 high schools, 3 middle schools and 12 elementary schools) within the Middletown school district. There are 5 private schools.
- Historic total student population (including Special Education)

School Year	Total Enrollment
2008/09	9,967
2009/10	10,159
2010/11	10,065
2011/12	9,911
2012/13	9,964
2013/14	9,678
2014/15	9,787

Breakdown of Pre-K through 12 Actual/Projected Enrollments:

School	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Projected	Estimated Sq. Footage Per Pupil
Bayview	419	406	108
Fairview	313	300	110
Leonardo	232	237	136
Navesink	295	293	99
Harmony	486	502	102
New Monmouth	453	432	141
Ocean Avenue	304	310	102
Port Monmouth	268	248	104
Middletown Village	418	411	87
Lincroft	509	490	81
Nut Swamp	550	575	83
River Plaza	322	325	99
Subtotal Pre-K – 5 th	4,569	4,529	
Bayshore	667	645	223
Thorne	715	731	177
Thompson	945	945	137
Subtotal Middle Schools (6-8)	2,327	2,321	
High School North	1382	1,493	171
High School South	1400	1,444	164
Subtotal High School (9-12)	2,782	2,937	
Total Enrollment	9,678	9,787	