

11/9/07

Dear Dr. Gagliarducci, Dr. Scanlon and Members of the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I submit to you the Thornton W. Burgess Middle School School Improvement Plan for the 2007/2008 school year. I am confident that the various goals and action steps identified will meet the social, emotional and educational needs of our students and school while complimenting the Strategic Plan of the HWRSD.

The educational portion of this plan was a direct by-product of the October 5th in-service day, which was spent studying the MCAS results from 2007. After reviewing the data, each academic team identified areas of concern that are being addressed in this plan. With students now being held accountable in four academic areas of MCAS testing, we realize that it is the effort of all staff to ensure the success of each and every student. Therefore, our plan for this year is to include specific goals for improvement in the areas of mathematics, language arts, social studies, and science with action steps that include the support of all teachers.

In addition to the academic goal, we felt it was important to address other school needs through technology and school culture. As the saying goes "It takes a village to raise a child". Therefore, we felt the obligation to improve our delivery of educational standards and communication through the use of various forms of technology throughout our school community. With the outside world becoming increasingly complicated, we felt the need to maintain a safe and caring culture which will provide the social, emotional and educational services that will meet the needs of our diverse population.

Attached is a copy of the 2007 Performance Level Results for each grade level at Thornton Burgess Middle School. Also attached is a copy of the 2007 Preliminary Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Data sheet. According to that document, we were able to achieve an NCLB performance rating of "Very High" in English Language Arts and "High" in Mathematics. The Improvement Rating for both subject areas is reported as being "On Target". In reviewing the Performance Level Results we made improvement in many areas and grade levels. As a result, we as a school celebrated our gains. We did recognize some areas of concern however, and have targeted these areas as top priorities in this year's School Improvement Plan. Furthermore, ongoing dialogue will take place as we try to strengthen the results in both 5th grade and special education sub groups.

Respectfully submitted,

Noel P. Pixley
Principal

GOAL # 1 :	To increase student academic performance in areas that have been identified for each content area listed below.
Strategic Goal Correlate:	<p>L1- Continue to implement a district-wide curriculum improvement process that reflects state and national frameworks.</p> <p>L4- Provide coordinated planning opportunities to support the staff in effectively delivering curricula.</p> <p>L7- Support teachers in the development and use of a variety of creative and diverse instructional strategies and in the continuous assessment of those strategies.</p> <p>L8- Offer instructional strategies and educational opportunities to students based on their learning styles.</p> <p>L11- Offer a comprehensive, system-wide professional development program.</p> <p>L19- Involve parents on every level to help reinforce classroom lessons, at home, where appropriate.</p> <p>A6- Continue to refine a system of measuring and reporting student progress.</p> <p>A7- Use a variety of methods to assess student learning at all grade levels (portfolios, demonstrations, rubrics, self-evaluation, peer evaluation, checklists, traditional tests, etc.).</p> <p>L9-Expand programs for students of all ability levels utilizing a model that enhances the educational experience (remediation, enrichment).</p> <p>L14- Offer challenging programs that increase expectations and learning opportunities for all students.</p> <p>A5- Monitor student achievement in relation to state and national standards.</p> <p>A6- Continue to refine a system of measuring and reporting student progress.</p>
Math	
Action Step #1:	<p>Demonstrate improvement in multiple choice questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Re-introduce terminology throughout the year to provide a continuous review. ➤ Demonstrate the process of elimination and computation strategies through modeling. ➤ Provide white boards in math classrooms to enable teachers to teach color coding strategies to their students.
Time Frame:	Ongoing
Action Step #2:	<p>Reduce the number of zeros earned in open-ended responses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Include more MCAS styled test questions within math assessments. ➤ Share with all classes the open-ended questions and responses from the DOE web site. ➤ Throughout the year use MCAS style rubrics for self assessment and peer assessment
Time Frame:	Ongoing
Action Step #3:	Supplemental experiences, support and materials will be provided including Math's Mate, Accelerated Math and Connected Math, etc.
Time Frame:	Ongoing
Action Step #4:	<p>Offer Professional Development Opportunities in order to reinforce math instruction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ District wide in-service days. ➤ Faculty meetings. ➤ Off site conferences and workshops.
Time Frame:	Ongoing
Science	
Action Step #1:	<p>Provide a structured format for MCAS review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Teachers will provide samples and review MCAS problems for practice

	during X-Block.
Time Frame:	Second semester
Action Step #2:	<p>Supplemental experiences, support and materials will be used in the classroom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implement a re-alignment of grade level configurations and teaming format that will include a science specialist on each team. ➤ Increase time on learning ➤ Establish a homework policy for science in grades 5-8. ➤ Utilize our Technology Specialist and computer programs to support the science curriculum.
Time Frame:	Ongoing
Action Step #3:	<p>Use different modalities to address the various learning styles of the grade 5-8 students. This will be accomplished by using the following strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Manipulatives ➤ Projects ➤ Role-playing ➤ Field trips ➤ Science web sites ➤ U-Mass stem earth central
Time Frame:	Ongoing
English Language Arts	
Action Step #1:	<p>The students' ability to write more effective open responses will improve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Teachers will create lessons that focus on clear topic sentences, topic development and effective conclusions. ➤ Using the Collin's Writing Program, teachers will include vivid details as an FCA. ➤ Teachers will model effective writing by using MCAS samples and exemplary student work.
Time Frame:	Ongoing
Action Step #2:	<p>The students' ability to read, interpret and draw information from non-fiction writings will improve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Practice will be provided using text from MCAS questions, textbooks, research articles, etc. ➤ Students will be taught methods to identify key information which will enable them to correctly answer questions. ➤ Teachers will review test taking strategies.
Time Frame:	Ongoing
Action Step #3:	<p>Increase exposure to poetry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provide opportunities for students to read poetry orally in order to teach cadence, and meter. ➤ Ongoing exposure to poetry will allow students the opportunity to gain a better understanding and comprehension of poetry.
Time Frame:	Ongoing
Social Studies	
Action Step #1:	<p>Students will become more familiar with different types of maps and how they are used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provide students with various maps in the classroom. ➤ Provide students with the opportunity to use maps within the context of the History curriculum.
Time Frame:	Ongoing
Action Step #2:	<p>Students will improve performance on open response questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provide open response questions on all major assessments. ➤ Continue using the John Collins Writing Program. ➤ Model exemplary responses. ➤ Throughout the year use MCAS style rubrics for self assessment and peer assessment.

Time Frame:	Ongoing
Action Step #3:	Students' ability to locate and identify countries of the world will improve. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Inventory the status of classroom maps and purchase and replace maps where needed. ➤ Provide a variety of maps in the classroom for student use. ➤ Pre and post test for each world region studied.
Time Frame:	Ongoing

Evaluation Process

Measurement:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A content area portfolio will be maintained including the lessons demonstrating the instructional strategies described in the above action steps. ➤ Pre and Post tests. ➤ The Related Arts teachers will maintain a portfolio that will include the instructional strategies they are using to compliment the academic goals of this improvement plan. ➤ Overall performance on MCAS will improve, and AYP targets will be met.
Monitoring Dates/timelines:	At monthly faculty meetings, staff will be provided the opportunity to compile, share and reflect on the instructional strategies implemented during the previous month.
Person/persons responsible for monitoring:	Administration

GOAL # 2:	To create a culture which meets the needs of all learners.
Strategic Goal Correlate:	<p>L1- Establish and implement a district-wide curriculum improvement process.</p> <p>L6- Provide coordinated planning opportunities to support staff in effectively delivering curricula.</p> <p>L7- Incorporate into classroom instruction an understanding of current research about learning.</p> <p>L8- Support teachers in the development and use of a variety of creative and diverse instructional strategies and in the continuous assessment of those strategies.</p> <p>L10- Offer a comprehensive system-wide professional development program.</p> <p>L12- Involve all school personnel in ongoing professional development.</p> <p>L14- Provide services that promote inclusiveness and lead to improved performance.</p>
Action Step #1:	Provide teachers professional development to enhance instructional strategies
Time Frame:	September 2007- June 2008
Action Step #2:	Restructure team in order to designate a special education liaison in order to oversee and advocate for the students with IEP's on that team.
Time Frame:	September 2007– June 2008
Action Step #3:	Administration will explore the possibility of introducing the Developmental Design program to TWB as a means to supporting the Responsive Classroom program at the elementary level.
Time Frame:	August 2007- June 2008
Action Step #4:	Create a schedule that will address the learning needs of our students by implementing enrichment and remedial opportunities.
Time Frame:	September 2007-June 2008
Action Step #5:	Schedule STAT meetings on a monthly basis in order to track progress of students who are struggling with academic, social and behavioral issues.
Time Frame:	September 2007-June 2008
Action Step #6:	Create and maintain a safe school environment
Time Frame:	Ongoing

Evaluation Process

Measurement:	<p>Teachers will demonstrate growth in instructional strategies which will meet the needs of all learners. This will be accomplished through training received during in-service days, faculty meetings and off-site conferences. AYP will be achieved for all categories of learners according to NCLB regulations.</p> <p>Create a schedule which will allow us the ability to provide a special education liaison for each team. This schedule will support students being educated in the “least restrictive environment”.</p> <p>Administration will research the Developmental Design model and attend professional development opportunities as they present themselves related to this program.</p> <p>Schedule a block of time within our school day to address remedial and enrichment opportunities.</p> <p>Schedule monthly STAT meetings and record referrals made to STAT and record referrals for further testing and/or services.</p> <p>Create a building safety team, and meet on a quarterly basis to review and address areas of concern.</p>
Monitoring Dates/timelines:	Throughout the school year, teachers will receive professional development through district initiatives and off site programs.

	<p>Create schedule during the summer of 2007.</p> <p>Administration will provide evidence of research conducted throughout the year regarding this program. Documentation will be provided for training received through consultation and/or workshops attended.</p> <p>Create an “X Block” to provide ½ hour each day for remediation and enrichment.</p> <p>Monthly STAT meetings will be scheduled and recorded.</p> <p>Quarterly safety team meetings will be scheduled and recorded.</p>
<p>Person/persons responsible for monitoring:</p>	<p>Administration, teachers, staff</p>
<p>Education results:</p>	<p>Students will gain better access to the curriculum and will enjoy a stable and nurturing environment through the above mentioned initiatives.</p>

GOAL # 3:	To promote the use of technology by fostering a climate conducive to the physical and educational needs of students and staff.
Strategic Goal Correlate:	L4- Provide coordinated planning opportunities to support the staff in effectively delivering curricula. L11- Offer a comprehensive, system-wide professional development program. L13- Involve all school personnel in ongoing professional development in order to effectively deliver curricula and services. L14- Offer challenging programs that increase expectations and learning opportunities for all students. L19- Provide expertise and support in the use of emerging technology. L20- Incorporate the use of technology tools as an integral part of teaching and learning strategies and techniques (Distance Learning). L21- Offer opportunities to all students to become proficient in the use of technology to do research, communicate, and expand the learning environment.
Action Step #1:	To provide teaching staff with professional development opportunities in an effort to increase their understanding and use of technology within the classroom setting.
Time Frame:	September 2007- June 2008
Action Step #2:	To coordinate the technology curriculum for grades 5-8 with the academic curriculum, which will promote interdisciplinary connections.
Time Frame:	September 2007- June 2008
Action Step #3:	Continue to update computer hardware and software.
Time Frame:	September 2007- June 2008
Action Step #4:	To introduce and implement Edline with the TWB teachers and community.
Time Frame:	September 2007-June 2008.

Evaluation Process

Measurement:	<p>Teachers will demonstrate growth of technology skills by participating in the Virtual Educational Survey. Staff meetings, team time and training will be provided/encouraged in order to provide teachers with more knowledge pertaining to technology.</p> <p>Quarterly meetings will take place between administration and the Technology Specialist to monitor refinement of curriculum.</p> <p>When possible, purchase additional equipment such as Smart Boards, software and hardware.</p> <p>Form a committee to coordinate efforts with Wilbraham Middle School staff in order to implement this program successfully. Provide professional development for staff in order to give them the knowledge and skills necessary to maintain their personal Edline account.</p>
Monitoring Dates/timelines:	<p>Training will take place during faculty meetings, in-service days, off site conferences/professional development opportunities, and during common Team planning time.</p> <p>Quarterly meetings with Technology Specialist.</p> <p>Purchases made throughout the year.</p> <p>Meetings and professional development will be held as need and will be documented.</p>
Person/persons responsible for monitoring:	Administration, teachers, staff

Education results:	The faculty and students will demonstrate increased technological abilities as a result of professional development and refined instruction due to curriculum changes. New equipment will further enhance educational opportunities. Implementation of Edline promote communication between home and school, and will meet the needs all students.
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