

Great Meadows Regional School District Strategic Plan Update

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Goal 1: Provide students with adequate support and experiences to promote growth in all areas.

Accomplishments 2014

- Academic support in all schools funded with Title I
- Response to intervention- assess and streamline process and procedures
- PLC's and articulation with Hackettstown
- Honors level courses- articulation with HHS

Accomplishments 2015

- Implemented a clear system for response to intervention that includes, but is not limited to, differentiation of instruction, referral to I&RS using new Google Form, tiers of support (i.e.-Basic Skills Instruction, Title I Academic Support programs), CST referral.
- Teachers received sustainable training on RTI. A school wide response and tracking sheet has been created and disseminated to staff.
- Assistant Principal and School Counselor attended training through FEA for best practices in RTI and I&RS.
- Provide PD to assist teachers with understanding I&RS and its process to ensure streamlined support.
- Selection of Go Math resources for K-5 that align with Common Core, Hackettstown elementary schools, and the Middle School math program (Big Ideas).

Accomplishments 2015

- Middle School honors program has begun for Math, ELA and Science with 1 honors section set up in each class.
- Exploration for Individualized Student Plans has begun. We are looking to NJ CAN to fulfill part of this need by tracking student goals and plans from 6th to 8th grade along with 21st Century Skills.
- Expand the Title I programming, Step Ahead running 4 days a week (added 2 days) for all grade levels and Saturday tutoring at GMMS.

Accomplishments 2016

- Student of the month to honor students at the highest grade level in each school at the monthly Board of Education meeting.
- Implementation of Go Math resources at Liberty and Central Schools.
- Implemented a before school direct reading instruction program using Title I funding at Liberty School.
- Grades 3 through 8 have a continued focus on student performance with PARCC data, benchmark assessments.
- Implemented a targeted assistance summer program at GMMS using Title I funding.
- GMMS has used the School Improvement Panel to develop student choice programs that will include a school newspaper, GATE, coding and chess for the 17-18 school year.

Accomplishments 2016

Expanding Special Education Programs and Services

- Two inclusion preschool classes at Central
- Continuum of services for students who have a BD classification
- 2 Language and Learning Disabilities classrooms at Central
- Language and Learning Disabilities classroom at GMMS

Goal 2: Intensify the district's commitment to move toward an environment that provides students with 21st Century skills and prepares them for success on a global level by incorporating technology into all settings.

Accomplishments 2014

- All staff provided with training on Google and the Chromebooks.
- PARCC readiness- Think Central and Write Smart are being implemented with the Journey's program, Link-it! benchmarks are being implemented at the GMMS.
- Blended learning, inter-district articulation and professional learning communities are being used to identify best practices.
- Best practices in technology implementation: common planning time and support with peer instruction and modeling for staff.

Accomplishments 2015

- Purchase of tablets for kindergarten.
- Expanded use of online assessments in the Journeys program.
- Collaborated with Hackettstown on application for membership in InnovateNJ cohort for 2016.
- Expand use of Google Classroom to grades 3-5.
- Purchase tablets for BD classroom at Liberty School.
- Introduced 3 Blended Learning classes (final one introduced this year in grade 6) so every grade level has 1 Blended Learning room.
- Introduced High School Academy which provides a unit on 21st Century Skills. Collaboration, teamwork, technology integration into lessons, 2 additional Chrome carts for a total of 55 devices added this year alone. Continued training for staff and students on Google Drive platform and integrating community resources to deliver instruction.
- Implementation of new Virtual Technology education platform for all 3 schools. The modules include STEM applications for all students and is incorporated into 7th and 8th grade Technology Education.
- GATE students receive a dedicated 2 day a week STEM driven program.

Accomplishments 2016

Districtwide

- Implemented use of Realtime student information system
- Became the first district in Warren County to become a part of Innovate NJ
- Utilizing technological resources to connect with other schools and districts
- Sustained Google implementation with on-site professional development

Goal 3: Creating a social and academic environment that is safe and enhances students ability to become forward thinking risk takers, and globally conscious.

Accomplishments 2014

- Civic awareness- community projects with Veteran's Vienna Food bank, Senior Center, Liberty Cares
- Student code of conduct- changes have been implemented to be reassessed with a climate survey and discussed at principal forums
- Character education activities-Rachel's Challenge, Second Step, character education initiatives implemented throughout the school year

Accomplishments 2015

- Character Education Committee formed in September 2015.
- Character-building initiatives being rolled out throughout the year; monthly themes, assemblies, and positive rewards for examples of themes.
- Celebrated Week of Respect with theme days and a kickoff assemblies.
- Reaching out to community for learning opportunities (i.e. -walking trips to post office and police department for kindergarten)
- Guidance to develop tailored lessons for each grade level for character education.
- Use of AM television media to display "Kindness" PSA's.
- Develop school wide bucket of kindness challenge to promote character education.
- Continuing the Random Acts of Kindness program with more follow through from school counseling office.
- Implementing a new group and individual counseling format with school counselor, where every student meets with the counselor at least once per year.

Accomplishments 2015

- Implement the NJ Bar Foundation Teasing and Bullying, Bully Busting Curriculum with six essential lessons being pushed into all classes grades 6-8.
- Establishing school-wide language in-line with the Bully Busting Curriculum.
- Train parents on the program and familiarize them with the language.
- Recognize student achievement in all areas, including citizenship and character on a quarterly basis.
- Weekly recognition for 1 student in each grade level during lunches followed by a phone call to parents recognizing behavior and achievement above and beyond.
- Meet with safety team to align mission and function with best practices as presented by NJPSA/FEA.
- Developing a middle school point based consequence system to have set consequences and "points of no return" for all disciplinary issues including HIB.

Accomplishments 2016

- Security film utilized districtwide.
- GMMS and Liberty School implemented a 1 to 1 initiative.
- Expanding use of online assessments in Think Central at Liberty and Central.
- Constructed a new STEM lab in the media center at Liberty.
- Expanded and updated TV studio with state-of-the-art green screen and camera equipment.
- Continued character education with 'No Name-calling' lessons and the Act of Kindness Campaign.
- WLNS broadcasting "exercise the anger away" on the morning news.
- Central School trained staff on Lexia Learning to best utilize its data to drive instruction in conjunction with PARCC data from Liberty School.

GOAL 4: Create a top-notch school environment by opening communication paths and engaging parents in the student's academic life. Collaborating with community to access resources.

2014 Accomplishments

- Communication- family nights at Central, parent advisory committees at Liberty and newsletter updates.
- Student Achievement- Link-it! and Journey's assessments, data to be shared with parents and school community.
- Leadership Corp- monthly luncheons with the Superintendent and Administration to focus on school climate improvement.
- Increased school to home communication with the district newsletter.

Accomplishments 2015

- Continued Monthly Message on Central and Liberty websites.
- Teachers encouraged to contact parents via phone and email frequently. Logs will be kept and checked.
- Collaboration with PTO on events and activities.
- Continue Principal Forums and PAC meetings.
- Parent / Teacher logs posted in every classroom.
- Encourage parent and teacher involvement for trips and school events.
- Increase new after school activities to give students variety.

Accomplishments 2015

- Implement a reporting system for Title I students using Edmentum.
- Implement a weekly parent phone call for 1 student in each grade to acknowledge academic performance and good behavior above and beyond what is expected.
- Work with the SLC and Student Council to provide student activities that engage a variety of community organizations.
- Continue work with Student Council and SLC to provide a smooth transition from middle school to high school.
- Ran a Veterans Day Program to honor our Vets that allowed students to hear their experiences to understand and appreciate their service and the impact it has on our nation.
- Incorporate the use of multiple means of communication (instant alert, website, remind 101) to allow for better parental communication.
- HMS, HHS, and GMMS Student Councils meet regularly to strengthen relationships between the 3 schools and ease the transition from MS to HS.
- Tri-District Parent Advisory Committee formed between Hackettstown, Great Meadows, and Allamuchy meeting 3 times a year.

Accomplishments 2016

- Continued updates to website, PTO collaboration, principal forums and Parent Advisory Committee.
- Consolidated Title I parent involvement meeting with a successful turnout.
- With the revised curriculum cycle K to 8-
 - ELA revision is near completion
 - Music revision is complete
 - Spanish revision is near completion
 - Science and math are mapped out for the remainder of the school year
- Partnered with Rutgers University to bring in high quality and sustained professional development with a focus on literacy skill across content areas.

Areas of Focus 2017 and Beyond

- Sustainability and increases to our technological infrastructure.
- Create and adopt a job description for tech support personnel.
- Implement a 1 to 1 initiative at Central School.
- Add pre-school program at Central School to maximize facility use.
- Conduct a demographic study with Liberty and Independence Townships.
- Maximize available space to capitalize revenue at Liberty and the Middle School.
- Begin vestibule installation districtwide.
- Create and adopt a job description for Director of Security and security personnel.
- Continue to develop a consortium for county-wide special education programs.

Thank you!
