

Medfield Public Schools

Memorial School Improvement Plan 2009-2010

The Memorial community is a school that thrives on the input and involvement of parents, staff, and town members. We welcome many volunteers to our school. Our Site Council is comprised of parents who are educators and a community member with an extensive background in early childhood education. Our CSA provides us with many classroom and fundraising volunteers. CSA members provide a valuable resource when planning literacy events such as Read Across America, our visiting author week, and support in our literacy lab. They successfully earn funds that support our visiting artists, purchase needed equipment for the playground and classrooms, and fund parent speakers. Our building staff diligently provides the most current curriculum and utilizes best practices to provide a warm and expansive curriculum to our young students. I appreciate the input of all our school community members in the development of this plan.

The following represents a summary of achievements against the 2008-09 goals as well as our newly developed 2009-10 goals.

Theme 1: Facilities, Equipment and Technology

Recap 2008-09

- Teri O'Brien provided four days of training to kindergarten and grade one teachers. The training goals were based on the state frameworks requirements for children in these grades. Training focused on early keyboarding skills and imbedding currently owned software into the curriculum.
- Five refurbished CPU's were purchased to serve as back-up when classroom and library systems failed. These were a reasonable price and have allowed us to continue to run classroom and library services without interruption.
- The Literacy Lab has continued to operate for a second year. The lab is fully supported by volunteer parents who arrive daily and support children while they learn from Lexia and SuperPhonics software. This software allows children to work at their own level to reinforce phonetic skills.

Goals 2009-10

- Continue to integrate literacy and technology in the classrooms and literacy lab.
- Grow staff understanding of how to integrate computer time into the math block.

Theme 2: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Recap 2008-09

- The Medfield Coalition for Public Education approved a grant to support the initial work needed to investigate strategies to improve our Response to Intervention. A team of five educators lead by a consultant, Barbara Levine, has been studying the various models for RTI and will make recommendations to the leadership team as to how to move from a discrepancy model to a intervention model over the next few years.

- A committee formulated by Bob Maguire met earlier this year to discuss the possibility of adding more full-day kindergarten classes at Memorial School. The economic climate and the possibility of the Hospital Hill project increasing enrollments in the near future prevent us from expanding at this time. However, as stated below, we will evaluate the current demographics of those children in the full day program to be sure we are addressing the learning needs of all children.
- The Kindergarten grade level has begun discussion on how to best balance the current curriculum demands with the half day schedule. Kindergarten teachers have made good progress in working towards scheduling a daily English Language Arts block and a math block so that curriculum demands can be addressed.
- Science and Social Studies curriculum maps have been drafted. Memorial teachers worked with vertical teams to insure coverage of all frameworks requirements K -5.

Goals 2009-10

- Continue to utilize common assessment in ELA to inform instruction.
- Utilize data from common assessment to identify children requiring intervention in math.
- Establish common discussion time to share student work in the areas of writing and math.
- Investigate opportunities within the school day to provide common intervention and extension times to address first grade literacy skills.
- Implement changes in the Science and Social Studies curriculum based on realignment of units.
- Continue to monitor student populations who might benefit from a longer kindergarten day.

Theme 3: Student Life

Recap 2008-09

- In an effort to build home school communication, parents of Memorial students attended principal coffees and evening presentations on school readiness, developing the whole child and early literacy skills.
- The Memorial CSA held discussions to change their focus from fundraising to purchase items to fundraising to provide parent workshops. The first workshop was held in April. The guest speaker was Dr. Savoy from Warmlines, a local organization that coordinates links between professionals, schools and parent groups.
- A team comprised of content specialist met to update the agendas for the monthly Get Along Gatherings. Scripts were updated and visuals were improved utilizing authentic photos of children in the school population.

Goals 2009-10

- In coordination with Dale and Wheelock School, develop a series of presentations for staff and parents addressing student wellness.
- Partner with Dale Street to proactively address bus behavioral concerns.

Theme 4: Personnel and Professional Development

- Two in-house teacher training by Jamee Callahan focused on improving comprehension strategies for young children in kindergarten and grade one. Teachers are capitalizing on read aloud time to model comprehension skills. As the children develop, they will also be making their own connections and sharing their understanding of story elements.

- Eileen Gagnon was hired to facilitate peer observations in the area of math. The teachers had vocalized a concern about students verbalizing their findings during unit discussions. Small peer groups of 3 to 4 teachers discussed intended outcomes, observed a peer teaching and regrouped to share observations of what were successful strategies.

Goals 2009-10

- Determine set of common assessments in the curriculum area of math.
- Utilize common assessment data to inform instruction and identify intervention requirements in ELA and math.
- Begin staff development to address overarching science instructional goals.

Theme 5: School Management and Leadership

Recap 2008-09

- Utilized content area specialist and consultants (technology and ELA, math) to insure continuous development of skills through consistent instructional practices.
- Grade level agendas were developed early to address student learning needs.

Goals 2009-10

- Examine opportunities for configuring the master schedule to include grade level intervention and extension time.

Theme 6: Community Outreach

- Many of the children participated in a UNICEF fund raiser that was coordinated by Hilli Passas, a parent volunteer. The children were given a thirty day calendar with simple math problems and daily living opportunities for each day. Over \$1,000 was earned for UNICEF.
- We will hold our annual food drive in June to support the Medfield Food Cupboard.
- Give the financial climate and the family needs of many of our staff members, we did not repeat our Pajama Party.

Goals 2009-10

- Continue to involve staff, parents and students in making a difference in the community beyond our school.
- Assess the present set up of our school on-line postings to see if there is a clearer and more informative way to keep material sorted and updated.

I appreciate your time and consideration in reviewing the summary and goals of the Memorial School. As principal, I want to state that the above accomplishments could not have taken place without the full cooperation of the dedicated Memorial staff, and the direction and support of the Medfield Leadership Team.

Sincerely,

Andrea Trasher
Principal
Memorial School
Medfield