

School Improvement and Innovation Plan

Principal's Perspective

In addition to living up to the 2007-2008 school-wide NWEA goals, Highview students met individual growth goals at an even higher percentage and the school's proficiency percentages went up as well.

The Highview Building Leadership Team made a concentrated effort to keep students and parents informed throughout the 2007-2008 school year and get students invested in their individual reading and math growth. Helping parents to understand their child's individual growth goal - as measured and set by NWEA tests - was also a top priority. Strategies that proved most successful in communicating these goals - such as student-led conferences - will be carried over into the 2008-2009 school year. Staff, students and parents responded favorably to the fall student-led conferences in which students shared their portfolio of work examples and their individual growth goal(s) at scheduled conferences run by students and their homeroom advisors. We also had student/parent conferences in the spring to continue our communication.

One key learning from the 2007-2008 school year is the need to increase parent involvement and attendance at conferences, and it is essential for the students to be present. For 2008-2009, Highview will initiate personal learning plans for all students which will be shared with parents at conferences. The Olweus Bully Prevention Plan will also be implemented school-wide in the coming year. Based on the Olweus survey given to our students last year, we know we have a student population with a lot of empathy for students who are bullied. The Olweus program will teach students how to intervene when they witness any bully behavior. Highview student surveys have found that the majority of students feel safe and welcomed at Highview Middle School. Continuing to make Highview a safe and friendly school will remain on our list of priorities. As principal of Highview Middle School, I look forward to another successful year of moving our school vision forward: *"We are family: staff, students, and parents working together to create a positive safe learning environment."*

Goal #1: At Highview Middle School 58 percent of students, who participate in spring NWEA/MAP testing, will meet or exceed individual NWEA math RIT target scores.

Results: Overall, Highview students made significant progress toward their goal, with an average of 57.7 percent (which is within a standard deviation) of the students making or exceeding their individual NWEA math RIT target scores. Some strategies used to help reach the goal were:

- Student-led conferences in the fall to share individual goals with parents and students
- "Math Mondays" in homeroom to further develop math skills
- Student math tutors in the homeroom
- Math Lab and the HOLT math curriculum included technology based activities to teach math skills.

The most significant change was noted in how students were invested in their own growth scores and better test-taking techniques.

Goal #2 - Part 1: At Highview Middle School 56 percent of students, who participate in spring NWEA/MAP testing, will meet or exceed individual NWEA reading RIT target scores.

Results: Highview students attained their goal with 57.7 percent of students meeting the reading goal of the NWEA RIT scores. READ 180 had a very positive impact on the students who participated in the program. Other factors that contributed to positive results were:

- DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) in homeroom
- Student-led conferences
- More practice on computerized programs
- Work on test-taking skills
- The integration of reading and language arts

Goal #2 - Part 2: Highview Middle School students will improve achievement in word meaning on the MCA-II and NWEA tests. Each grade level will improve one to three RIT scores on the NWEA tests to be in line with District averages. Academic vocabulary for each content area will be part of the MVTPPS goals for all individual teachers.

Results: Results indicate a great improvement in word meaning scores on the NWEA and MCA tests since the MVTPPS goals were incorporated in all areas of each teacher's academic vocabulary goals. MCA-II test results indicate growth in the word meaning area for all grade levels.

Goal #3: Highview Middle School's Leadership Team decided at the Summer Institute to add a climate goal to reinforce our school vision and positive climate. We also wanted to focus on the "whole" child in a developmental sense. The climate goal focused on three areas:

- Develop a caring adult relationship in mixed-grade homerooms for all students.
- Improve overall safety, emotional, physical and mental well-being of all students.
- Increase awareness of a healthy lifestyle including nutrition, fitness, and movement.

Results: All these goals were met at Highview by implementing a variety of strategies throughout the school year.