

Principal's Perspective

In addition to living up to the 2008-2009 school-wide NWEA goals, Highview students met individual growth goals with higher proficiency percentages.

The Highview Building Leadership Team made a concentrated effort to keep parents and students informed of the individual reading and math growth goals set for each individual student. This was done throughout the 2008-2009 school year and will continue in 2009-2010 with new growth goals in place for each student. 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 2009-2010 school year. Staff, students and parents responded favorably to the 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 teachers. We continued the student/parent conference model in the spring to reinforce the expectations of growth for students taking the NWEA tests in April.

One key learning from the 2008-2009 school year was the benefit of a personal learning community (PLC) for teachers. The math teachers attended the Math & Science Academy and had follow-up PLC meetings to focus their math instruction and further develop formative assessments. Highview will also initiate personal learning plans (PLP) for all students which will be linked to the online School View access. These became available to students and families on Monday, Oct. 19, 2009.

Highview implemented several intervention reading programs very successfully with the addition of System 44, the continuation of READ 180 and Reading Workshop courses.

The Olweus Bully Prevention Program was a focus school-wide. Based on the Olweus survey given to our students this spring, we know we have a student population with a lot of empathy for students who are bullied. The Olweus program helps teach students how to intervene when they witness any bully behavior. Highview student surveys indicate students feel safe and welcomed at Highview Middle School.

"We are family: staff, students, and parents working together to create a positive safe learning environment."

Annual Report 2008-2009

School Improvement and Innovation Plan

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 61.2 percent 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
- "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 factor in improving instruction was the teacher participation in PLC groups through the Math & Science Academy.

Goal #2 - Part 1: At Highview Middle School 64 percent of students, who participate in spring NWEA/MAP testing, will meet or exceed individual NWEA reading RIT target scores.

Results: Highview students made significant progress toward the goal with 62.3 percent of students meeting the reading goal of the NWEA RIT scores. The gain of 4.5 percent in growth on the NWEA with an increase of student proficiency is noteworthy. System 44 and 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
- Addition of the System 44 program to compliment READ 180
- Work on test-taking skills including computerized testing
- The integration of reading and language arts

Goal #3: Highview Middle School's Leadership Team decided at the Summer Institute to add to the 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:

1. Implement the Olweus Bully Prevention Program.
2. Develop and implement our school diversity plan.
3. Make sure each student has one or more caring adult at Highview.

Results:

1. Olweus Bully Prevention Program has contributed a great deal to improving our school climate. Students are more aware of what bullying behavior is and what consequences will occur if they bully others.
2. The diversity plan was partially met through the implementation of the Olweus Bully Prevention program.

3. **Highview succeeded in developing caring adult relationships in mixed-graded homerooms and student –led conferences and by identifying non-connected students early in the year.**