

**Medfield Public Schools
Thomas A. Blake Middle School
2008-2009 School Improvement Plan**

As the 2007-2008 school year comes to a close, I would like to thank the entire Medfield community for their support throughout my first year as principal. My experiences this year have been both exciting and incredibly rewarding. Our success is based on the commitment made by our parents, teachers, and administrators, all functioning as one unit in an effort to support each student.

The following is an overview of our 2007-2008 goals, as well as our new goals for the coming year:

Theme I: Facilities, Equipment and Technology

Recap 2007-2008

- Installed an emergency phone line so that teachers would be able to contact the main office. (Facilities)
- Replaced the gymnasium curtains and installed window tint. (Facilities)
- Purchased 7 two-way radios to allow for improved communication between the Principal, Dean of Students, main office, custodian, nurse, and physical education teachers. (Equipment)
- Through a CSA grant, we were able to purchase a new kiln for the art room. (Equipment)
- Through a MCPE grant, we were able to purchase three SmartBoards for our 6th grade teachers. This purchase also included an InFocus projector and media equipment. (Technology)
- Implemented a new electronic work order system. (Technology)
- Administered a Technology Proficiency test to all students. (Technology)
- Grade Quick web version available to staff. (Technology)

Goals 2008-2009

- Begin to explore options for a major auditorium renovation. (Facilities)
- Purchase new chairs for the computer lab. (Facilities)
- Create a workspace for Content Specialists to allow for a common location where they can meet with teachers. (Facilities)
- Purchase three new SmartBoards which would allow each cluster to have its own unit. (Technology)

Theme II: Curriculum and Assessment

Recap 2007-2008

- Realigned the Social Studies curriculum in grades 6-8. (Grade 6 - World Geography , Grade 7 – Ancient and Classical Civilizations, Grade 8 – World History I)
- Explored various field trips that will align with the new Social Studies curriculum.
- Common assessments/grading – Content Specialists continued dialogue with their respective departments.
- Middle/High School transition – 8th grade teachers met with high school teachers by department, to begin discussions regarding placement, high school expectations.
- Restructured MARS (Grade 6) Reading to allow for students to remain on cluster.
- Sixth grade ELA teachers began dialogue with the Director of Curriculum and Assessment regarding the development of a MARS Reading curriculum.
- Purchased class set of World Geography books for each grade 6 cluster.

Goals 2008-2009

- Purchase new algebra textbooks for grade eight.
- Begin to assess the foreign language model as it relates to cultural communications and Spanish support.
- By department and grade, begin to examine the amount of homework (grades 6-8) that is being assigned.
- Explore the possibility of designing a program that would allow 5th grade teachers to meet with 6th grade teachers regarding the middle school transition.
- Develop a MARS Reading curriculum in sixth grade.
- Adopt a diagnostic math assessment to target instruction for 6th grade students who are less than proficient on MCAS

Theme III: Student Life

Recap 2007-2008

- We spent time studying the stress that middle school students face. Through our guidance department, our staff attended a mini-workshop designed to help teachers understand the factors that can influence student stress.
- Recycling Program – this school-wide program emphasizes our responsibility to the environment, especially as it relates to the Blake Middle School.

Goals 2008-2009

- Continue to provide support/awareness regarding cyberbullying.
- Focus on school climate, 4R's.
- Advisory program – Continue to develop activities that support the school's positive/healthy climate.

Theme IV: Personnel and Professional Development

Recap 2007-2008

- SmartBoard training – each teacher determined their readiness level and attended a workshop based on their ability. The workshops were facilitated by Blake staff and took place during a professional day.
- Kurzweil training
- Good Grief workshop
- Training was provided to all staff in most subjects by using the district embedded days.
- Science Department attended the National Science Conference, Boston.

Goals 2008-2009

- SmartBoard training
- Cyberbullying workshop has been scheduled. This workshop will provide staff with strategies that can be used to help students understand what cyberbullying is and what steps to take should they become a victim.
- Continue to recognize the needs of the staff, and provide training around the areas of Differentiated Instruction and common assessments.

Theme V: School Management

Recap 2007-2008

- Transition of leadership
- Twelve new teachers, new cluster leaders
- Intramural program has grown tremendously

Goals 2008-2009

- Formulate a middle school model study group that will assess the middle school model. Specifically, the role of foreign language on clusters, shared planning time and scheduling, shared staff, rotation schedule, common planning time for Relateds.
- Continue to focus on maintaining a positive school climate, 4R's, student involvement, all-school celebrations.

Theme VI: Communication and Community Outreach

Recap 2007-2008

- Jodi Geltman, parent presentation in February
- Coffee with the Principal
- Weekly Newsflash and updated Thursday Packets
- End of the year individual meetings with every staff member.
- Restructure Teamworks meetings to allow for conversations that are grade specific.
- Grade Six Parent Nights
- Fall and Spring Parent Information Nights
- Friday Notes to staff

- 7th grade Student Work Night

Goals 2008-2009

- Continue Coffee with the Principal
- Weekly Newsflash and updated Thursday Packets
- Continue PIN nights and other grade level parent nights.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Parga
Principal