PLYMOUTH SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
2016-2019

PSMS School Council Members

Amy Ring          Scott Sorensen
Teacher Representative Teacher Representative

Justin Kearney    Marie McLaughlin
Parent Representative Parent Representative

Alicia Kearney    Cara Gizzi
Parent Representative Parent Representative

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Parent Representative Assistant Principal

Steven Morgenweck Julie Benotti
Principal Teacher Representative

11/07/16
Plymouth South Middle School

Goal 1: Enhance student social and emotional growth, health and welfare, and demonstration of civic responsibility

We believe that maintaining a safe school environment while supporting the social and emotional well being of our students allows us to educate the whole child and promote academic success and social growth.

Objective 1.1 - Raise the percentage of students demonstrating behaviors that contribute to a positive learning environment and social culture.

- Define behavioral expectations through the development of PBIS program
- Collaborate with local agencies to expand the number of support programs available to students and their families
- Recognize students for community service and leadership efforts
- Grade-level assemblies focused on positive peer relationships
- Provide teambuilding programs for academic teams
- Develop a system of cross-grade / homeroom mentors
- Establish classroom partnerships with the elementary schools and PSHS

Objective 1.2 - Increase the number of students who participate in authentic service-learning opportunities.

- Celebrate the work and outcomes of service-learning efforts at PSMS and throughout the greater community
- Promote the inclusion of service-learning opportunities within instructional design and across the curricula
- Provide instructional materials and resources that expose students to global issues and concerns
- Develop additional collaborations with international partners
- Plan educational programs that promote social and cultural awareness
- Expand the number of student clubs focused on community service
- Create additional opportunities for student leadership

Indicators of Success:

- Development of a school wide system of positive behaviors and supports
- Decrease in the number of discipline referrals and behaviors of concern
- Increase in the number of programs designed to support the social and emotional health of students
- Increase in the number of students actively engaged in service-learning activities
- Increase in the number of students who self-identify as community leaders
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Goal 2: Increase family and community engagement
We are committed to improving communication between the school and the home, creating additional opportunities for parents and family members to be involved in PSMS programs, and supporting parents by providing training and education on issues impacting the students.

Objective 2.1 - Strengthen family participation in schools and in student learning and development.
- Develop a series of informational sessions and resources to make it easier for parents to understand and support the academic program
- Develop a series of informational sessions and resources for parents to raise awareness of social issues including:
  - Substance abuse / Prevention
  - Cyber Safety / Social Networking
  - Mental health and wellbeing
  - Suicide awareness / Prevention
- Plan recognition events and student programs that involve parents, guardians, and family members
- Invite parents and community partners to serve as instructors, mentors, coaches, and advisors within the school community
- Promote opportunities for involvement through school newsletter, social media, and at all parent programs
- Establish system of parent mentors through the PTA and School Council
- Maintain regular teacher communication with parents and guardians

Objective 2.2 - Enhance communication between the school, the home, and the community-at-large
- Encourage two-way communication between teachers and parents
- Promote teacher use of electronic communications to update parents on class activities and team expectations
- Facilitate the orientation and registration of parents new to Aspen grade book
- Continue to support the team approach for Parent Night programs
- Send weekly newsletter to all PSMS parents
- Use social media to share news and information about PSMS
- Encourage parent feedback through regular surveys
- Report activities to local news organizations
- Establish community partnerships with outside groups and agencies

Indicators of Success:
- Development of programs designed to encourage parent engagement
- Increase in percentage of parents participating in school activities
- Increase in response rate to parent surveys
- Increase in the number of people interacting with PSMS sponsored websites and social media applications
Goal 3: Enhance academic achievement of all students at all levels

At PSMS, we strive to provide our students with the skills and knowledge they will need to be successful in high school, college, and the workplace. We believe that engaged students are active participants in the educational process who take ownership of their own learning and develop a sense of self-efficacy.

Objective 3.1 - Expand student access and exposure to current technology and real-world applications.

- Examine the academic program and identify opportunities to embed technology education throughout the current curricula
- Promote the integration of technology and educational applications in lesson planning and unit design
- Increase the number of students regularly using computers and/or personal devices as part of classroom instruction, assignments, and assessments
- Develop common practices that promote the safe and effective use of technology by students, both in and out of school

Objective 3.2 - Increase academic performance for all students.

- Provide opportunities for teachers to examine the vertical alignment of the curricula and communicate about grade level expectations
- Engage students in the active analysis of their own assessment data, grades, and performance feedback
- Create formal opportunities for students to develop academic goals
- Promote instructional models that feature student choice, project-based learning, and a participative classroom approach
- Foster support for special education students and other diverse learners through the promotion of the co-teaching model of instruction
- Cultivate support programs for students struggling in reading and math
- Establish a system of academic interventions available for all students
- Expand the use of the online learning platforms, including Virtual High School, in an effort to offer academic opportunities for advanced learners
- Promote the development of learning skills essential to academic success

Indicators of Success:

- Integration of technology within the existing academic frameworks
- Increase in the number of teachers and students using educational technology
- Continued upgrades of technology
- Development of a curriculum for student goal setting
- Creation of a scope and sequence for teaching essential learning skills
- Increase in the number of programs to support student learning
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Goal 4: Provide strong district and school leadership
We believe that by setting high expectations and providing teachers and staff members with the support, training, and resources necessary to provide quality educational programs, we can maximize the opportunities for student growth and achievement for all PSMS learners.

Objective 4.1 - Provide a cohesive and collaborative approach to school and District leadership.

- Engage teachers and support staff in the ongoing analysis of academic trends and student performance data
- Empower teachers, administrators, staff members, and parents to identify areas for school growth and improvement
- Examine the middle school schedule for opportunities to improve instruction and advance the academic program
- Include faculty and staff in the planning and delivery of professional development offerings
- Increase engagement in job-embedded professional development with academic coaches and technology specialists
- Foster consistency of professional practice throughout the school and district
- Provide opportunities for professional collaboration by interdisciplinary team, grade level, and academic department

Indicators of Success:

- Establishment of a committee to review the middle school schedule
- Increased opportunities for teachers to review and discuss performance data
- Expansion of professional development offerings to reflect educator choice
- Administrative participation in the instructional rounds process