
PLANNED IMPROVEMENT FOR THE SCHOOL AND DISTRICT

This is the final section of the school report card in which your school and district provide information below on areas of success and areas for planned improvement based on your school's improvement plan.

(For report cards disseminated electronically, this information may be provided in a separate document due to differences in the software used. If you are unable to locate this document, please contact your local school or district office.)

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOALS:

Goal # 1: Reading

To demonstrate improvement in the area of reading comprehension. Specifically in the areas of reading strategies and drawing inferences. Presently, 79.2% of our students are in the meets or exceeds category. This is a 5.8% increase from the 2007 – 2008 school year. The 2008 – 2009 school year is the first year of this plan. We would like to continue with a 3 – 5 % increase each year.

Goal # 2: Writing/Communication

To increase our students' abilities to communicate their personal experiences to written passages. The 2008 – 2009 school year is the first year of this plan.

Goal # 3: Math

To improve the skills of our students in open-ended math problems, specifically relating to the areas of mathematical knowledge, strategic knowledge and explanation. We would like to increase our student's achievement in this area by 10% over the next 3 years. Our current overall average of students meeting or exceeding in math on the ISATs is 88.9%. The 2008 – 2009 school year is the first year of this plan.

Goal # 4: Math

To demonstrate success and understanding in the area of measurement and geometry. In meeting this goal we hope to increase our scores by 10% over the next 3 years. This past year 76% of our students met or exceeded in these two particular areas. This was a 12% increase over the previous year's scores.

Goal # 5: Math

To improve basic math fact recall ability for all students. We would like to increase accuracy specifically related to the areas of addition, subtraction, and multiplication.

Goal # 6: Character Counts

Students will be able to identify the character trait of the month and demonstrate understanding of the 6 pillars of character as evidenced by their ability to interact appropriately with others.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN SUCCESSES:

Our reading teachers were a part of our response to intervention team in the area of reading. They helped service those students who needed tiers 1, 2, & 3 interventions through the use of scientific research based materials. They were an integral part of the RTI team.

We continue to use starfall.com, word maker and earobics to improve reading skills.

We implemented a new reading series, Literacy By Design with intervention strategies and staff development components.

Whole group instruction, guided reading groups and flexible grouping are strategies used by all grade levels to achieve reading goals.

Along with teaching the character traits we incorporate writing activities to coincide with the traits.

We continued our “Wee Deliver Post Office” program at Hilltop. The students enjoy writing letters and have a better understanding for the importance of writing. Our students also get to experience career opportunities available through the post office. The postmaster from McHenry comes out every year to recognize our students for their hard work in operating our Hilltop Post Office.

Our Art, P.E., Music and Learning Center teachers plan our discovery day every year around the curriculum. All grade levels studied and learned about the United States. Our culminating activity was our actual discovery day which had activities coinciding with our United States theme. This is always a great learning experience for the children. We have many parent volunteers to help make this day a huge success.

We continue to use our S.T.A.R.S. program for our school wide discipline. S – Stay on Task, T – Try Your Best, A – Active Listening, R – Respect Everyone and Everything, S – Safety First.

We continued to use the math problem of the day to enhance our student’s skills in answering open-ended math problems. Math vocabulary has been developed and was used consistently across all grade levels to help with the development of math skills.

We continued with our Math Olympics but we incorporated this into a full day of math activities for all grade levels. We had an opening ceremony in the gym as well as a closing ceremony. Once again this event was met with great enthusiasm from students, staff and parent volunteers.

We administered the ISEL (Illinois Snapshot for Early Literacy) test to all Kindergarten students and first grade students. We also administered AIMSweb benchmarking to all students in Reading, Writing and Math. Teachers were directly involved in the administering of these tests. This was a great way for the teachers to see the needs of their students as well as their accomplishments. The results of these assessments were used to help implement our response to intervention in reading and math strategies in all grade levels.

Hilltop staff has developed and is implementing response to intervention strategies in the area of reading and math with all grade levels. The principal and assistant principal and support staff are a part of the team implementing strategies.

We have literacy meetings once a month with each grade level. Our reading specialists and support team provide training for our staff.

As a staff we continue to educate ourselves in the area of best practices in all subject matter. We share reading materials and ideas throughout the year to keep ourselves informed of best practices in the education field. We attend staff development conferences to keep ourselves current with best practices.