

Parsippany-Troy Hills Township School District Progress Report on District Goals 2018-19

Presented to the Parsippany-Troy Hills
Board of Education
June 27, 2019

Goal #1: Our district will create an innovative and rigorous educational experience in a borderless learning community that produces creative students who are problem solvers and self-directed individuals.

■ District Curriculum Renewal Plans

- Language Arts: Completed a successful pilot of Reading/Writing Workshop in select 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes at both middle schools. New curricula will be fully implemented in September.
- World Languages: A full year of 6th grade Spanish, French, or Italian will be implemented for the 2019-20 school year.
- Mathematics: *Reflex Math* has been incorporated into elementary classrooms as a resource for strengthening fact fluency. An Advanced 5th Grade Math program will begin in September 2019-20 school year in all elementary schools.
- Music: A Strings Music teacher has been hired and 124 3rd grade students will begin a String program in Parsippany schools (108 violins, 7 violas, 9 cellos).

Parsippany High School Parsippany Hills High School

New Courses 2019-20

ENGLISH

Literature and Film (Semester Elective)

Superheroes and Modern Mythology (Semester Elective)

SOCIAL STUDIES

Holocaust and Genocide Studies (Semester Elective)

Human Geography AP

INDUSTRIAL ARTS

Home Technology Systems, Maintenance, and Repair (Semester Elective)

FOOD SCIENCES

Nutrition for an Active Lifestyle (Semester Elective)

MATHEMATICS

AP Calculus AB

VISUAL/PERFORMING ARTS

Digital Photography II (Full Year Elective)

WORLD LANGUAGE

Introduction to ASL (Semester Elective)

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- Explore online/borderless learning opportunities for high school students
 - Sixteen students have registered for online courses through *Virtual High School*. Dr. Axelrod is the Site Coordinator for the program.
 - AP Psychology (7), German, Russian, Latin, Pre-Veterinary Medicine, Sustainable Engineering, and more!
- Successfully implemented “semi-departmentalization” of Grade 5 classes.
- Increase STEM opportunities at all grade levels
 - New elementary science program implemented in phases.
 - Advanced Grade 5 Math to begin in September with @ 28 students identified.
 - Middle school electives in STEM/Technology instruction are updated for September.
 - Middle school Technology teachers will have a “coaching” period to support teachers in integrating technology.
 - Researching a “STEM Pathway” for high school programming for the 2020-21 school year which would include special diploma endorsement.

Goal #1: Our district will create an innovative and rigorous educational experience in a borderless learning community that produces creative students who are problem solvers and self-directed individuals.

- Expand elective offerings at the middle school
 - Students were surveyed for areas of interest. New courses for 2019-20 are “Sports and Literature” and “Foods – Grade 7”.

- Expand dual enrollment to include CCM and other colleges
 - Despite our best efforts, this is not yet ready for implementation. We are continuing our conversations with the colleges for 2020-21.

- PSAT administration for all sophomore students in October 2019:
 - National Merit distinctions and scholarships stem from Junior year PSAT.
 - Good practice for the SAT (similar in skills and a slightly easier test).
 - Effective conversation-starter for counselors and students about college readiness.

Goal #2: All students will receive social and emotional support to become adaptable, confident citizens who embody self-awareness and strong interpersonal skills, capable of responsible decision-making and managing their emotions and behaviors.

- Research and select a highly effective SEL program.
 - Committee reviewed several programs with a decision to implement *Sanford Harmony*. Training occurred for Phase I implementation in December with two teachers in each elementary school piloting the program.
 - Elementary “kits” were delivered to all classrooms for teachers to explore during the June Professional Development Day. Piloting teachers spoke about their successes with the program this year.

- Many principals established goals related to Social and Emotional Learning.
 - “30Day Kindness Challenge”
 - Including students on school Climate Teams
 - Using *Google Classroom* to share articles on mindfulness with faculty
 - Use of School Climate Teams to promote mindful activities and strategies
 - Yoga and relaxation techniques introduced during P.E. and recess
 - Cultural arts assembly programs connected to a character education and mindfulness theme

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- Cross-Town Leadership Retreat held on February 23.
- Brain Breaks infused into elementary classrooms.
- PHS re-designed Freshman Orientation to provide for small-group discussions, station rotations, and student-led sessions.
- Establish opportunities to assist parents and families in supporting their children's social-emotional well-being.
 - Superintendent “Book Study” for parents on Crazy-Stressed: Saving Today's Overwhelmed Teens with Love, Laughter, and the Science of Resilience.
 - ESL teachers led an Open House for families and offered tutorials for parents.
 - Elementary counselors presented “Bullying and Conflict: What Every Parent Needs to Know” to parents in the spring.

Goal #3: Our community of adult learners will be fully engaged in professional growth experiences which enable them to continuously hone their craft and maximize student achievement.

- Develop a framework to provide learning opportunities for continued professional improvement and growth.
- November 7th and March 18th Inservice Days offered a menu of options for educators.
- Writing Workshop training was scheduled throughout the year by grade levels.
- ScIP Committees at each school worked with the principals to identify key learning topics for January 21 and June 5 Inservice days.
- New Staff Academy classes are differentiated by subject, grade span, and other areas to provide relevant training.
- A district Professional Development Committee was established and provided guidance for the June 5th Inservice and the Welcome Back sessions in August.
- Professional development is connected to district goals and the Strategic Plan.

Goal #3: Our community of adult learners will be fully engaged in professional growth experiences which enable them to continuously hone their craft and maximize student achievement.

- **Continue to embrace and build teacher leadership.**
 - Workshops on teacher leadership and career paths in educational leadership were offered during the November and March Inservice Days.
 - Educators are included on Interview Committees for all district leadership positions.
 - The “Administrative Internship” page of the district website has been enhanced. One teacher is currently engaged in our Internship program. Two teachers have been accepted for the 2019-20 school year.
 - The Professional Development Committee is exploring the state’s new Teacher Leader program.

- **Looking beyond our Parsippany borders**
 - Organized buses to the *Saturday Reunion* at Teachers College in October and March for free literacy workshops.
 - Partnership with Morris-Union Jointure Commission established.
 - Teacher attendance at Paramus Institute and Teachers College Summer Institute supported.

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Primary Learning Committee

Established to explore the unique learning needs of PreK and Kindergarten children.

- ✓ Unstructured play time
- ✓ Big Books for storytime
- ✓ Developmentally appropriate practices for primary learners
- ✓ Working toward new PreK curriculum for September 2020



Future Steps

Discuss goals and establish new objectives through the following meetings:

August 13-14: Administrative Leadership Retreat

Electronic summer collaboration with Professional Development Committee

Fall 2019: Board of Education Retreat

September 26 (Tentative): Presentation of 2019-20 District Goals
to Board of Education

Late January/Early February: Progress Update

