

Jordan/Jackson Elementary School
School Improvement Plan

2009 – 2010

School Council Members

Pamela Coyle, Parent
Joanne Harrington, Parent
Beth Oberlander, Parent
Scott Weiner, Parent
Anne Marie Kurko, Community Rep
Amy Abrams, Teacher
Shannon O'Brien, Teacher
Leslie Rundlett, Teacher
Lisa Maguire, Teacher

Katherine Kristenson, Principal
Kathleen Podesky, Principal

Mission Statement	The mission of the Jordan/Jackson Elementary School is to provide students with diverse learning experiences that challenge, enrich, and support them as life-long learners.
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Vision Statement	We are a unified, child-centered community committed to fostering a safe, nurturing environment. Children, parents, faculty, and staff are working together to set and achieve high social and academic expectations and standards.
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Guiding Principles

We Believe:

- Parents need to be involved in their child's education.
- In continual communication between home and school.
- In high expectations and accountability for personal behavior.
- Students' learning needs are best addressed through a wide range of instructional opportunities emphasizing active learning, independence, and cooperation.
- In optimizing learning for the individual.
- All individuals need to be treated with respect and dignity.
- We value the arts as being integral to the students' holistic education.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this school improvement plan is for continuous improvement in our educational practice, with the result of improved student performance that meets the standards set by the Massachusetts Department of Education and the Mansfield Public Schools.

This school improvement plan represents the cooperative venture of both the school council and the faculty at large. This year, we focused on implementation of the Scott Foresman Literacy Program in the third grade and schoolwide adoption of the revised Everyday Math Program. Benchmark assessments in both curriculum areas were put on place according to the curriculum and pacing guides. These goals are a continuation of the 2007 - 2008 School Improvement Plan and will remain goals for the next school year with the continuation of the literacy program into the fourth-grade and fifth, thereafter. The school council maintains the importance of the technology and school safety goals.

The council, with input and agreement from the faculty, has decided to add a goal to our ongoing improvement plan for the 2008 - 2009 school year. In addition to our ongoing goals in technology, instruction and assessment and school safety, we will focus our efforts to improve communication and the culture of the school. These goals and objectives are consistent with the Mansfield Public Schools Strategic Plan.

GOALS FOR 2007-2008

TECHNOLOGY

Goal for 07 - 08: Provide greater access to technology to improve learning and communication.

Action Steps:

- Increase the number of computer pods available for each cluster of classrooms.
- Ensure that teachers have access to software and training via the technology coordinator to create classroom websites.
- Post homework, newsletters, graphic organizers and classroom events on the website. Create links to classroom related projects.
- Implement the Everyday Math software into the instructional block.
- Provide professional development in the use of technology for academic support and test preparation.
- Implement the new Scott Foresman Literacy Program in grade 3 with reference to specific recommendations for differentiating instruction.

Review of Progress:

- 12 Computer Pods with Internet access, 3 in each quadrant of the school are currently in use.
- The computer lab is continuously updated for daily student use.

INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

2007 - 2008: Improve student performance in the areas of reading, writing and mathematics.

Action Steps:

- Expand the Academic Learning Center to provide more students with support in grades four and five.
- Implement the revised edition of the Everyday Math Program using mid- and end-of-year assessments, including the software that was introduced at mid-year.
- Refine the math-pacing guide that was developed at faculty meetings and align with standards and assessments.
- Continue with implementation of the Empowering Writers Program. The J/J council recommends that teachers who worked on the implementation guide revisit the pacing in a summer institute, 2007.
- Full implementation of the math and literacy Massachusetts Frameworks.

Review of Progress

- The Academic Learning Center serviced fourth- and fifth- grade students. During fourteen-week sessions, 64 fourth-graders and 72 fifth-graders received remedial reading services. During four six-week sessions, 73 fourth-graders received remedial math services. During one six-week session, 50 fifth-graders received remedial math services; during the second six-week session, 60 fifth-graders received remedial math services.
- The Mansfield Public School's Math Vertical Team refined the Everyday Math mid-year assessment and communicated the expectation that the assessment be administered to all grades K-5. The J/J Math Curriculum Associates have created a template for common scoring sheets. They are currently creating scoring sheets for each Everyday Math unit for grades 3-5 to assure consistency of scoring across the grade levels. The expectation is that all J/J teachers will be using the common scoring sheets during the 2008-2009 school year.
- The Mansfield Public School's English Language Arts Vertical Team has maintained its focus on written language this year. A group of fifth-grade teachers, under the direction of the ELA Curriculum Associates, have created a curriculum map that will be utilized during the 2008-2009 school year. The map aligns with the fifth grade standards and incorporates the Empowering Writers program and poetry and includes systemic prompts and open responses. To meet the needs of third and fourth grades, the PreK-3 Curriculum Associates have examined the written language component of the Pearson Scott Foresman literacy program. They are in the process of producing a document that identifies for each grade, the skills and major writing products for each unit. During the 2008-2009 school year, third and fourth grade teachers will be using the Pearson Scott Foresman written language component while continuing to use the Empowering Writers program to supplement where appropriate.
- The Mansfield Public School's Science Vertical Team provided an afterschool workshop for all Jordan/Jackson School staff. During the workshop, the Curriculum Associates taught grade appropriate lessons and distributed materials to teachers so that they could more easily implement hands-on science lessons that are aligned to the MA Frameworks.
- Implementation of the Scott Foresman Reading Street Literacy program, proceeded according to plan in all third grade classrooms. In addition, two fourth-grade teachers, co-teaching with a special educator, piloted the program in their inclusion classrooms.

- Professional development was provided by consultant Yvette Robida to all third grade staff members. All teachers administered the beginning of the year benchmark assessment as well as end of unit assessments.
- Dr. Robin Coddington, University of Massachusetts, Boston, included four-third grade classrooms in her research study, Monitoring Mathematics Progress and Increasing Fluency. She presented her findings during a staff meeting and made recommendations for teachers to implement in their classrooms.

SCHOOL SAFETY

<u>2007-2008: Improve all aspects of school safety.</u>

Action Steps:

- Continue to examine the drop-off and dismissal procedures.
- Continue to research the implementation of the visitor identification system.
- Continue to pursue securing classrooms after 6:00PM.

Review of the Progress:

- We increased the number of staff members supervising arrivals and dismissals.
- The Mansfield Public Schools Administrators have heard presentations from several firms regarding visitor identification systems for each school. The current school year's district-wide budget was unable to support purchase of a system at this time.
- Unless there are evening events planned at J/J, the front doors are locked as soon as the last CHAMPS student has left for the day.
- Pat Harrison, Mansfield Public Schools Head Nurse, wrote and applied to the State of Massachusetts for an Essential School Health Services Grant.
- An Indoor Air Quality Assessment was completed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in response to staff concerns about respiratory and other symptoms.
- Ed Vozella, Kathy Podesky, Kate Kristenson, and Teresa Murphy met with a representative of BICO to review emergency procedures that impact BICO students who attend the Jordan/Jackson School.

GOALS FOR 2008 – 2009

TECHNOLOGY

<u>Goal for 2008 - 09: Provide greater access to technology to improve learning and communication.</u>
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Action Steps:

- Increase the number of Smartboards. Request two additional Smartboards from MESA.
- Provide additional training in how to use the Smartboards.
- Increase the number of pods in the classrooms.
- Continue ongoing review of available technology with the Director of Technology.
- Provide professional development for teachers using HomeLogic.

- Continue to implement Easy IEP in the Special Education Department.

Assessment: Staff survey and Easy Tech software.

INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

Goal for 2008 - 2009: Improve student performance in the areas of reading, writing and mathematics.

Action Steps:

- Implement the Scott Foresman reading program in Grades 4 and 5. All teachers will use the common scoring sheets developed by the Math Vertical Team.
- Continue professional Development with Scott Foresman
- Implement the curriculum map for writing that was created by the ELA Vertical Team consultants.
- Continue to expand Response to Intervention into regular and special education programming.

Assessment:

- DIBELS, MCAS, Grade level benchmarks and unit assessments.
- Common assessments administered three times a year in reading, writing and math.
- Increased number of inclusion classrooms at the fifth-grade level.
- Teachers are developing a schedule, working in small groups (pods), to provide an additional period of small group instruction, working in flexible groups for 6-8, 8-10 weeks.
- Special education and regular education classrooms will be working together side by side.
- Focus on Science and Social Studies curriculum with respect to MCAS.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Goal for 2008 - 2009: Improve all aspects of school safety.

Action Steps:

- A group of Jordan/Jackson teachers is in the process of creating a Health and Safety Committee to address building concerns.
- Recommendations and improvements that are documented in the Indoor Air Quality report will be implemented by the Building and Grounds and the Maintenance Departments over the summer months.
- A group, consisting of administrators, school psychologists, and adjustment counselors are in the process of developing a district Crisis Response Team plan to support the physical, social, and emotional needs of students and staff in the aftermath of a crisis. Each school will have a notebook that details protocols and identifies school staff (teachers, nurses, adjustment counselors, psychologists, nurses, custodians, office staff, etc.) who may be called upon to act as resources to the building administrators in the event of a crisis.

- The green Crisis Manuals that are found in all classrooms and office spaces is undergoing a revision. The Mansfield Police and Fire Departments are meeting with a group of school representatives to review all health and safety protocols.
- The Mansfield School Department's Health and Safety Committee have continued to meet throughout this school year. Chrissy Reeder and Ed Vozella chair the meetings that are open to all district staff members.
- Participate in Safe Routes to School with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.
- Assessment: School survey.

School Culture

Goal for 2008 – 2009: To improve and increase effective communication throughout our school community.

Action Steps:

- Initiate an Open Circle Sustainability Committee that will participate in training at Wellesley College and share with the staff-at-large an action plan for renewing the Open Circle Program at each grade level. Participants will include administrators, school adjustment counselor, school psychologist, teacher representatives from each grade level along with a specialist.
- Provide opportunities for teachers to communicate with each other monthly and each marking term.
- Include grade level updates and vertical team reports in the Neon News.
- Continue to provide inclusive settings closer to regular education classrooms for special education students.
- Continue using communication logs internally for staff and the Hornet Enterprise and the Buzz for communicating with parents.
- Work with the technology department to attach pertinent articles from parenting and educational periodicals to the Principals Page.
- Develop a survey for students, staff and parents to determine the effectiveness of initiatives.

Assessment: Staff and Parent Survey

**JORDAN/JACKSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
2007-2008 RESTRUCTURING PLAN**

In compliance with the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) regulations and the Department of Education Adequate Yearly Progress Report, we are in the process of implementing the following initiatives as part of our Restructuring Plan.

- **ADMINISTRATION:** Form an Academic Council with teachers to develop an Action Plan for improvement in student learning by identifying root causes of low student performance. The Department of Education Performance Improvement Mapping will be used as a guide to facilitate this plan. Professional Development in *Response to Intervention* will be provided for all staff.
- **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS:** All grade 3 teachers including special educators are using the Scott Foresman Reading Program to teach reading. This program will be piloted by some of the fourth grade classrooms for possible implementation in the next school year. Each student has been individually assessed for placement in guided reading groups. Professional Development will be ongoing through the year to ensure consistent delivery of instruction. We are in the second full year of implementation of the *Empowering Writers* Program.
- **MATHEMATICS:** Implement the 2007 edition of the Everyday Math Program in grades 3, 4 and 5 as a result of teacher input. Teachers developed common assessments based on the state frameworks to be administered to students during the year. This data will be used to inform instruction. Teachers will meet monthly to articulate math curriculum at each grade level.
- **ADDITIONAL TEACHING STAFF:** A teacher in the Academic Learning Center has been added to provide math as part of a regular education intervention.
- **ACADEMIC LEARNING CENTER:** The teachers in the ALC will use the MCAS data analysis to select students, including low-income students, to provide additional support in ELA and math. Lessons will be designed using activities to reinforce specific skills for students to demonstrate improved understanding. We are investigating the feasibility of having an after school program to provide additional academic support for our students.

Respectfully submitted by: Kate Kristenson and Kathy Podesky

JORDAN JACKSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ACADEMIC COUNCIL
2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR

PURPOSE:

- Establish a team of teachers to address issues that impact student learning.
- Identify the most significant causes of poor student performance on the MCAS.
- Analyze the root causes of low student performance.
- Examine the effectiveness of current instructional practices.
- Develop an Action Plan for improvement in student learning.
- Seek input and feedback from the entire staff.
- Establish improvement objectives for student learning.
- Research and select new strategies for reaching improvement objectives.
- Communicate Action Plan to staff.
- Guide implementation of Action Plan

First meeting on October 2, 2007 was in the Curriculum Conference Center for one hour. Thank you to the following teachers for attending: Meghan McCarthy, Josh Curry, Kelly Shevlin, Rob LoBello, Kathy Risotti, Chrissy Reeder, Amy LePage, Sarah Mirza, Denise Gabor, Beth Robisonson, Shannon O'Brien, Jane Keller, Anne Kirk, Carol Gershman, Lisa Maguire, Peggy DeAngelis, Karen Slarve, Mary Beth Kennedy, Patty Coyne, Coleen Flagg, Kim Holster, Jennifer Cromack, Robert Cote, and Amy Abrams.

At the meeting the purpose was reviewed and discussed. In response to identifying causes of low student performance teachers meet in small groups to discuss specific issues with solutions.

The next meeting is November 13, 2007. All are welcome to attend.

MCAS Analysis 2007

Grade 3 - Reading

3% decline in Reading and Literature
3% decline in Open Response

Focus on Standards 8, 13, and 15: Nonfiction, Understanding Text, Style/Language

Open Response:

Fiction: 9%-1 point, 31% - 2 pts., 38% - 3 pts., 21% - 4 pts.
Nonfiction: 18% - 1 pt., 56% - 2 pts., 22% - 3 pts., 3% - 4 pts.

Math

5% decline in Number Sense
1% decline in Patterns, Relationships and Algebra
6% increase in Geometry
5% increase in Measurement
2% increase in Data, Statistics and Probability

8% increase in Short Answer
2% increase in Open Response

Focus on Standards: N1, 4, 8, 12, M3, G6, D3, P1,2

Grade 4 – ELA

Topic Development
Conventions of English

Focus on Standards: 12, 13, 14

Open Response:

Non-Fiction	12% - 1, 45% - 2, 37% - 3, 5% - 4
Non-Fiction	1% - 0, 16% - 1, 61% - 2, 21% - 3, 2% - 4
Poetry	2% - 0, 16% - 1, 56% - 2, 23% - 3, 3% - 4
Fiction	1% - 0, 31% - 1, 55% - 2, 12% - 3, 2% - 4

Math

Focus on Standards: N10, N13, N17, P4, P6, G1, G2, M1, M2, M3, D3

Grade 5 – ELA

Focus on Standards: 12, 13, 16

Open Response:

Non-Fiction 1% - 0, 14% - 1, 49% - 2, 37% - 3, 9% - 4

Non-Fiction 2% - 0, 19% - 1, 43% - 2, 31% - 3, 5% - 4

Fiction 73% - 1, 9% - 2, 10% - 3, 8% - 4

Poetry 2% - 0, 9% - 1, 29% - 2, 34% - 3, 26% - 4

Math

Focus on Standards: N10, N13, P1, P4, P5, G1, G2, G4, G9, M1, D, D4, D5

Open Response – Weakest Area – M\$

Short Answer – Weakest Area – N5

Science

Focus on Standards: Physical Science 1, 2, 11

Life Science 1

Earth Science 5, 8, 12

Technology/Engineering 1.2, 1.3, 2.2

Open Response: 13, 19

History and Social Science

Focus on Standards: North American Geography, American History, Civics and Government

Open Response: American History

Jordan/Jackson Elementary School
MCAS Analysis

English Language Arts

Grade 3	2004	2005	2006	2007
Advanced	NA	NA		
Proficient		79%	72%	69%
Needs Improvement		19%	25%	26%
Warning		2%	3%	5%

Grade 4	2004	2005	2006	2007
Advanced	13%	12%	10%	14%
Proficient	54%	50%	51%	60%
Needs Improvement	30%	32%	34%	22%
Warning	4%	6%	5%	4%

Grade 5	2004	2005	2006	2007
Advanced	NA	NA	29%	23%
Proficient			52%	60%
Needs Improvement			17%	15%
Warning			3%	2%

Mathematics

Grade 3	2004	2005	2006	2007
Advanced	NA	NA		
Proficient			64%	76%
Needs Improvement			28%	17%
Warning			8%	7%

Grade 4	2004	2005	2006	2007
Advanced	23%	25%	22%	22%
Proficient	28%	32%	28%	36%
Needs Improvement	40%	35%	43%	37%
Warning	8%	8%	7%	5%

Grade 5	2004	2005	2006	2007
Advanced	NA	NA	26%	35%
Proficient			32%	38%
Needs Improvement			30%	20%
Warning			12%	7%

Science and Technology/Engineering

	2005	2006	2007
Advanced	21%	25%	23%
Proficient	44%	44%	47%
Needs Improvement	31%	27%	27%
Warning	4%	3%	3%