

NRMS SCHOOL COUNCIL 2017-18

NAUSET
REGIONAL
MIDDLE
SCHOOL



2017-2019

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT
PLAN

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INTRODUCTION

The following data was collected during the 2016-17 school year and serves as the basis for the 2017-2019 School Improvement Plan

DATA

DATA ON USE OF TECHNOLOGY

AT HOME:

Students were asked about their screen time on a *2017 NRMS Health and Risk Factors* survey. The following were the results.

One hundred and sixteen (116) students said they spend three or more hours on video or computer games on school days.

- 24 6th grade students (16.1 %);
- 45 7th grade students (26.01%); and
- 47 8th grade students (27.98%)

Forty-Three (43) students indicated they spend three or more hours on an average school day watching television. This included:

- 10 6th grade students (6.7%);
- 15 7th grade students (8.72%); and
- 18 8th grade students (10.78%)

Thus, over 20% of our students spend three or more hours playing video or computer games or watching television on school nights. This does not include the time they spend on their Smartphones or iPads on social media or the screen time they spend doing schoolwork.

IN SCHOOL:

Teachers completed a *2017 Technology Survey* regarding their use of various media in the classroom. The results were as follows.

- 93% of teachers who have Smart Boards use them daily for review, independent work, practice, instruction, and/or remediation.
- Teachers use a variety of programs including Kahn Academy, Quizlet, the Internet, Study Island, Discovery Education, CNN Student, and Kahoot.
- Teachers indicated that use of the SmartBoard increases student engagement, keeping them more focused. Students also enjoy the interactive aspect of the Smart Board and like to use it to demonstrate various problem-solving solutions, and use of number lines, and other tools.

- When the survey was taken 42% of teachers indicated that they used iPads weekly or monthly. As the year went on use of iPads increased dramatically.
- 55% of teachers used computer labs weekly or monthly.
- Over 60% of teachers used computers for individual students or small groups of students daily (25%), weekly (14%), or monthly (21.4%).
- In addition to students spending evenings using technology, they are also spending a good proportion of time during the day using iPads, computers, and attending to Smart Boards. Parents have also expressed concern that their children are getting so many Google Classroom messages that it's troublesome and at times overwhelming. Parents have raised health concerns regarding the amount of screen time their children experience on a daily basis. More research is needed in this regard.
- Data from a student health study completed in the spring of 2017 indicated that 16.11% of 6th graders (24 students), 26.01% of 7th graders (45 students) and 27.98% of 8th graders (47 students) spend over three hours on video or computer games per school day, not related to school work.
- Data from a student health study completed in the spring of 2017 indicated that 6.71% of 6th graders (10 students), 8.72% of 7th graders (15 students) and 10.78% (18 students) spend 3 or more hours watching TV on an average school day.
- In the 6th grade, thirteen students indicated they have not participated in any groups, teams or activities; in the 7th grade, twenty-three students indicated they have not participated in any groups, teams or activities; and in the 8th grade, twenty-three students indicated they have not participated in any groups, teams, and activities.
- During a typical school week eighty-eight 6th graders indicated they did not spend any hours helping others or providing community service; in the 7th grade 130 students indicated they did not spend any hours helping others or providing community service; in the 8th grade 102 students indicated they did not spend any hours helping others or providing community service.

As a result of the concerns and data discussed above, one of the goals for the School Improvement Plan is “To Ensure Effective and Balanced Use of Technology.”

HEALTH SURVEY

The Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior survey and Massachusetts Youth Health Survey are conducted every two years to monitor health indicators, behaviors, and risk factors contributing to the leading causes of morbidity, mortality, and social and

academic problems among adolescents. On April 5, 2017, 502 Nauset Middle School students participated in the survey anonymously. The following was among the findings:

Alcohol and Marijuana Use

- 4.08% of 6th graders indicated that they have tried alcohol. (6 students)
- 8.76% of 7th graders indicated they tried alcohol. (15 students)
- 21.56% of 8th graders indicated they tried alcohol; 10.12% said they have had alcohol within the past thirty days. (36 students)
- 5.95% of 8th graders have tried marijuana. (10 students)

Mental Health and Suicidality

- In the 6th grade 6.04% have indicated they have injured themselves, although not wanting to die this past year (9 students); 15.44% have felt sad or hopeless two weeks or more (23 students); 4.7% have seriously considered attempting suicide (7 students); 18.67% have felt extremely anxious or worried which interfered with daily activities (28 students).
- In the 7th grade 6.32% have indicated they have injured themselves, although not wanting to die this past year (11 students); 13.79% have felt sad or hopeless two weeks or more (24 students); 5.92% have seriously considered attempting suicide (10 students); 37.71% have felt extremely anxious or worried which interfered with daily activities (66 students).
- In the 8th grade, 5.39% indicated they have injured themselves, although not wanting to die this past year (9 students); 22.75% have felt sad or hopeless two weeks or more (38 students); 9.58% have seriously considered attempting suicide (16 students); 44.05% have felt extremely anxious or worried which interfered with daily activities (74 students).

Parent or Confidant

- Seventeen 6th grade students, thirty 7th grade students, and forty-three 8th grade students reported not having a parent or other adult to talk to about important things.

Reasons for Anxiety/Depression

- The top reasons students in grades 6, 7 and 8 gave for anxiety/depression are academic stress, worry about the future, body image and physical appearance, relationships with friends/classmates, family problems. Academic stress was the top reason.

Bullying

- During the school year, 25.33% of 6th graders (38 students), 17.14% of 7th graders (30 students), and 18.45% (31 students) reported having been bullied at school or going to and from school.
- During the school year 8.67% of 6th graders (13 students), 12.57% of 7th graders (22 students), and 14.88% of 8th graders (25 students) reported having been cyber bullied.

- During the school year, 6.67% of 6th graders (10 students), 4.55% of 7th graders (8 students), and 12.50% of 8th graders (21 students) have indicated they have bullied another student.
- During the school year, 5.33% of 6th graders (8 students), 6.29% of 7th graders (11 students), and 8.33% (14 students) have indicated they've avoided school or school activities due to bullying.

Personal Safety

- 4.64% of 6th graders (7 students) indicated that within a 30-day period they felt unsafe in a car they thought they driver used alcohol or drugs. In the 7th grade the percentage was .57% (1 student) and in the 8th grade the percentage was 4.71% (8 students).
- 14.67% of 6th graders (22 students) indicated they have been touched by someone who made them feel uncomfortable; in the 7th grade the percentage was 10.29% of (18 students), and in the 8th grade the percentage was 18.34% (31 students).
- One student in the 6th grade, 1 student in the 7th grade and 2 students in the 8th grade indicated being physically hurt by someone they were dating or going out with,

As a result of the concerns and data discussed above, one of the goals for the School Improvement Plan is “To Improve Students’ Health, Wellness and Safety,”

School Council Meetings

- School Council members have discussed the power of teaching students through real-life, interdisciplinary projects that help students relate their learning to the world they live in, and to also understand that in the “real world” people do not have an “English moment” followed by a “Math moment,” etc. Teachers also want to connect their disciplines with others to help students make connections and develop a deeper understanding of subject matter.

As a result of these discussions, a third goal is to “Create Interdisciplinary, Real-Life Projects to Help Students Connect Their Learning to the Real World.”

GOALS

2017 – 2019 NRMS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

GOAL #1: Ensure Effective and Balanced Use of Technology

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	TIMELINE	INDICATORS OF SUCCESS
Balance the Use of Technology	<p>Research, collect and disaggregate data on time students spend with technology</p> <p>Survey teachers on whether we rely too heavily on technology; what is the correct balance</p> <p>Study and provide PD on the impact of technology on the brain</p> <p>Work with staff to develop recommendations re technology use</p>	<p>Administration Tech. Integration Specialist Computer Teacher Classroom Teachers</p>	<p>Sept.2017 – May 2018</p> <p>Sept. 2017- May 2019</p>	<p>Analysis of time students spend with technology (<i>in process 6/18</i>)</p> <p>Survey results (<i>in process 6/18</i>)</p> <p>Evaluation of PD</p> <p>Recommendations on Technology use</p>
Collaborate with Parents regarding Use of Technology	<p>Hold morning and afternoon training sessions for parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of X2 and Google Classroom • How to delete items on phones, iPads • How to check iPads <p>Hold Parent Technology Nights for Discussion On:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective strategies for parents for managing homework and the use/misuse of technology • How to manage notifications on Google Classroom • Use of technology in the classroom and computer instruction <p>Add training videos to website</p>	<p>Administration Technology Coordinator Computer Teacher</p>	<p>October, annually</p> <p>Sept. 2017- May 2019</p> <p>Sept. 2018- May 2019</p>	<p>Parent attendance and evaluations</p> <p>Parent attendance and evaluations</p> <p>Training videos on website, with number of viewers tracked</p>
Provide Opportunities for Staff Collaboration	<p>Provide time for faculty to share effective instructional uses</p> <p>Provide time for faculty to share classroom management strategies for student use of technology</p>	<p>Administration Faculty</p>	<p>On-going, bi-monthly</p>	<p>Minutes of staff meetings</p> <p>Compendium of effective strategies</p>

GOAL # 2: Improve Students' Health, Wellness and Safety

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	TIMELINE	INDICATORS OF SUCCESS
Share results of Health Survey with staff and parents	<p>Work with staff to identify school strategies for improving student health</p> <p>Hold meeting with parents to share results, identify needs, possible strategies for home and school</p>	<p>Administration</p> <p>Nurse</p> <p>Guidance Staff</p>	<p>September 2017 – November 2020</p> <p>November 2017</p> <p>Fall 2018</p>	<p>List of strategies</p> <p>Parent meetings and attendance</p>
Explore causes of academic stress	<p>Survey teacher, parents, and students</p> <p>Distinguish symptoms from root causes</p>	<p>Administration</p> <p>Guidance Staff / Team Leaders</p>	<p>October 2017</p> <p>December 2017</p> <p>January 2019</p>	<p>Survey results</p> <p>Identification of root causes</p> <p>Student survey results</p>
Implement programs to help students with health and wellness issues	<p>Implement SOS program</p> <p>Revise and Implement Second Step Program</p> <p>Integrate Botvin Life Skills Program into the Health curriculum</p> <p>Conduct Drug Screening, Grade 7</p>	<p>Guidance Staff</p> <p>Health Teacher</p> <p>School Nurse</p>	<p>January 2018</p> <p>September 2017-June 2019</p> <p>April 2018 - June 2019</p> <p>Annually</p>	<p>Lesson Plans</p> <p>Student peer referrals and self referrals for at-risk behaviors</p> <p>Screening results</p>
Form committee with parents and staff to Research honors, high honors, and homework practices.	<p>Recruit parents and staff for committee</p> <p>Meet with group to establish goals and activities</p> <p>Survey staff, parents, students</p> <p>Analyze results</p> <p>Make recommendations based on survey results</p>	<p>Administration</p> <p>Subject Coordinators</p> <p>Guidance Staff</p> <p>Parents</p>	<p>September 2017- June 2019</p>	<p>Decision regarding</p> <p>-Homework practices (<i>to be continued in FY19</i>)</p> <p>-Honors/High Honors practices (<i>completed</i>)</p>
Provide staff, students, and parents with ALICE training	<p>Develop plans and schedule for student training, teacher training, training for other staff members in collaboration with Orleans Police</p>	<p>Administration</p> <p>School Resource Officer</p> <p>Orleans Police</p>	<p>January 2018 – June 2019</p>	<p>All students, staff trained</p> <p>Parents sessions held to explain training</p>

GOAL # 3: Create Interdisciplinary Real-Life Projects to Help Students Connect Their Learning to the Real World

OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	TIMELINE	INDICATORS OF SUCCESS
Identify and expand upon current interdisciplinary initiatives.	Provide opportunity at faculty meeting to share current projects Have faculty identify additional possible interdisciplinary projects Create opportunities for collaboration Provide summer opportunities to create interdisciplinary curriculum in Grade 8 to connect to DC trip	Administration Subject Coordinators Team Leaders Integration Specialist Faculty	October 2017 – May 2019	Units written up and taught
Create opportunities for students to develop long-term Interdisciplinary Projects that demonstrate mastery of core subject content and are based on personal interest.	Discuss and seek buy-in from faculty Work with faculty to develop standards for projects and criteria for success. Decide which students are eligible, who will supervise them, when projects could be worked on Present to parents, students	Administration Subject Coordinators Integration Specialist	September 2018 – May 2019	Program established and implemented for inter-disciplinary real-life projects as a culminating activity
Expand summer programs for students	Advertise the Summer Science Institute more broadly. Recruit teachers to develop other programs. Identify opportunities to collaborate with other schools in the District.	Administration Subject Coordinators Summer Institute Coordinator Faculty	October 2017 – March 2019	Extended summer program