

*Watertown Public Schools
Secondary School
Improvement Plans*

Watertown High School
Watertown Middle School
June 21, 2010

English, Reading and Social Studies

Accomplishments:

- Completed the second year of the 3-year Teaching American History grant
- Developed a new sixth grade information literacy course
- Created a middle school student newspaper
- Hosted Executive Functioning Workshop conducted by Sarah Ward for content-area teachers

English, Reading and Social Studies

Accomplishments continued:

- Mapped the curriculum from grade 6 to grade 12 in English and social studies
- Formalized and standardized research and information literacy skills, grades 6-12
- Hired a full-time reading teacher to support student literacy at the high school

English, Reading and Social Studies

Next Steps

- Develop departmental data teams to review and common assessments
- Focus on project-based learning and provide students more opportunities for them to showcase their work
- Pilot Capstone Project for high school seniors

English, Reading and Social Studies

Next Steps continued:

- High school web-based journalism course and newspaper
- Incorporate "mock trial" curriculum into law and civics curriculum
- Expand the middle school "One School, One Book" program into the school year

Math

Accomplishments:

- Developed common math end-of-term assessments for grades 6-12
- Implemented Measures of Academic Progress for all eighth grade students and for tenth grade students taking MCAS prep classes
- Made the full middle school transition to the Impact Math program

Math

Accomplishments continued:

- Realigned the lower-level seventh and eighth grade math classes to better align with ninth grade
- Advanced math and science teachers' knowledge of Excel and the possible uses of it for the classroom
- 130 students, grades 8-12, participated in the American Mathematics Competition, up over 50% from last year

Math

Next Steps:

- Use Measures of Academic Progress and common assessments to generate our own data and discuss learning and instructional issues
- Use testing data to flexibly regroup students on a unit-by-unit basis at the middle school
- Participate in a course on differentiating instruction for middle school math and special education teachers

Math

Next Steps continued:

- Reconfigure the math department into one area of the high school
- Develop a common resource area for math teachers at the high school
- Introduce Grade 9 Algebra I Honors
- Introduce Sheltered Math for High School ELL Population
- Develop a parent / retiree volunteer corps for student math instruction

Science and Engineering

Accomplishments:

- Competed the science curriculum mapping for content knowledge and science laboratory skills, grades 6-9
- Developed a consistent format and grading rubric for lab reports
- Implemented Community Science Investigators after school program for middle school students

Science and Engineering

Next Steps:

- Review common labs and assessments to analyze data and discuss teaching and learning issues
- Align physical science curriculum in grade 8 to the physics / physical science curriculum in grade 9
- Develop more connectedness among the STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, math)

Science and Engineering

Next Steps continued:

- Institute a biomedical science course at the high school in conjunction with Mt. Auburn Hospital
- Establish an MCAS review course for those who do not pass the Science exam
- Reconstruct one high school science classroom as a biology science lab
- Reformat the middle school schedule so that teacher have the option to create a double-block class for labs

Student Support Services

Accomplishments:

- Expanded the language based learning program, grades 6-10
- Integrated "Language!" curriculum and Kurzweil technology in middle school LB classrooms
- Hired a high school special education teacher certified in math and science instruction.
- Expanded and improved the high school CAP program
- Expanded the school-to-work transitions program

Student Support Services

Accomplishments continued:

- Developed a high school after school support program
- Developed the middle school Autism Program
- Developed a health curriculum for sixth grade students
- Developed the "Let's Get Real" bullying program for middle school students

Student Support Services

Next Steps:

- Develop a comprehensive bullying and teasing curriculum, grades 6-12, following the new state mandate
- Expand staffing, services, and space for students with social and emotional disabilities at the high school
- Expand programming for students, ages 18-22, who need additional services

Student Support Services

Next Steps continued:

- Use the data from MAP and common assessments to systematically intervene and support students in middle school Academic Assistance classes
- Develop a middle school directed study program for students who need support in getting their work done

Other Accomplishments

- 100% wireless access
- Expansion of iPass to parents via iParent grades 6-12
- Virtual High School
- Middlesex League realignment
- "Grease" and "High School Musical, Jr."
- More seventh and eighth grade enrichment choices
- Middle school and high school robotics programs

Other Next Steps

- Cloud computing
- Expanded use of the schools' web sites
- More consistent grading guidelines at the middle school
- Further integration of middle school character education programs into the overall curriculum

Other Next Steps

- Continued work with academic transitions, grades 8-9 and grades 5-6
- An emphasis on reconnecting with students who are disengaged from school, activities, and/or home
- Community connections: service and outreach
- Restructure so that we can continue to offer middle school sports and other after school programs