

Saratoga Elementary School  
2007 - 2008 School Site Council  
School Improvement Goals

**Goal 1: Improving Student Achievement for Underachieving Students in the Area of Reading**

To fully use Title One funds to address the needs of students performing below grade level in the areas of reading, study skills, and remediation.

- Continue using Title One funding for intervention programs in reading, math, and tutorial/study skills class
- Extend time for Oak Street Studies and the Tutorial Programs

To investigate other early intervention programs.

- Continue using Title One funding for intervention programs in reading or math
- District-wide Title One Reading Recovery Teacher

**Goal 2: Improving Student Achievement: Improvement of Instructional Strategies, Materials, and Assessments in the Area of Reading for All Students**

- Provide professional development training for primary grade teachers in reading assessment
- Purchase high quality leveled book libraries and assessments
- Continue centers time in Grades 1 - 3 which provides small group reading instruction while offering enrichment classes including movement, creative writing, and hands-on activities to support classroom curriculum

**Goal 3: Improving Student Achievement: Improvement of Instructional Strategies, Materials, and Assessments in the Area of Writing for All Students**

To improve performance in writing by actively engaging students in the process of constructing purposeful writings that demonstrate definable goals, attributes and conventions according to grade level standards.

- Continue to provide professional development opportunities on the development of writing strategies including Step Up to Writing training and teacher materials
- Continue using the district wide writing rubric in assessing student writing
- Continue to update and use writing binders
- At the beginning of the school year, teachers will use the previous teacher's evaluations as contained in each student's portfolio, as measured by semi-annual school wide benchmark writing assessments, as well as both standardized and teacher-developed reading and writing inventories and assessments to determine each student's proficiency levels and needs. Teachers employ a variety of evaluation techniques which include student performance records, oral responses, reading response logs, journals, writing portfolios, written works, and extension projects. Those students identified by the teacher requiring remedial or enrichment instruction will have these needs met through flexible grouping, and through categorical and intervention programs.
- Understand from STAR essay writing testing which specific weaknesses exist and determine actions to address those weaknesses.

**Goal #4: Improving Student Achievement: Improvement of instructional strategies in the content area of science.**

To improve performance in writing by actively engaging students in the process of constructing purposeful writings that demonstrate definable goals, attributes and conventions according to grade level standards.

To augment the science program to ensure meaningful hands-on learning experiences that are aligned with state standards for all students on a consistent basis.

- Increase science aide time to a total of 10 hours per week.
- Provide a science aide to work with the fourth and fifth grade teachers with hands-on science activities/labs aligned with the standards-based science textbook
- Refurbish and restock science kits that are checked out by all grade levels.
- Kits will be broken down into smaller units so that science materials can be used more effectively in more classrooms.
- Incorporate science notebooks/journals at all grade levels. Students will become more capable technical writers.
- Organize upper grade science closet to make frequently used science materials accessible for classroom use.
- Develop mini-science “Did You Know” centers around school.
- Provide supplemental “in-class” science instruction to Kindergarten classes 2 times and Grades 1 – 5 classroom 5 times to enhance the current curriculum through visits by Lawrence Hall of Science
- Acquire library books that are referenced in science texts and/or science kits.
- Continue to develop the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Life Lab Garden

**Goal #5: Improving Student Achievement: Improvement of instructional strategies and materials in the content area of math**

- Research and provide teacher training in the content area of math

**Goal #6: Improving Student Achievement: Improvement of instructional strategies and materials in the content area of physical education and fine arts**

- Provide supplemental physical education equipment and materials for the classroom teachers and the Noon League program
- Provide training for classroom teachers in the content area of physical education
- Offer movement classes in kindergarten and first grade
- Purchase more plays for third and fourth grade teachers

**Goal #7: Improving Student Achievement: Improvement of our school climate through character education programs**

To implement a coordinated program that guarantees an environment of respect, responsibility and character development.

- Ongoing training and evaluation of the Second Step Character Education Curriculum
- Provide at least two parent education sessions
- Provide opportunities for student volunteerism and social and emotional development through the Noon League Program
- Provide leadership training for upper grade students
- Provide training for staff in class meetings, bully prevention and Steps for Respect Bullying Prevention Training
- Provide conflict resolution training for yard duty personnel
- Acquire library books that are referenced in Second Step series and/or resource materials.

- Implement Character Counts as a year-long program will become a function of SSC and will emphasize character education.
- Reinforce character education at weekly Wednesday assemblies
- Implement and communicate to students and families the school-wide violence prevention policy
- Utilize counseling support staff for social group counseling
- Investigate projects such as Peace Builders to help with conflict resolution and to build student leadership through peer mentoring
- Hold a fall and spring school-wide conference days with assemblies for character education

**Goal #9: Improve Student Achievement: Broaden our communication channels by using state of the art technology**

To broaden our communication channels by using state of the art technology.

- Use e-mail as preferred mode of communication for teachers and parents. Examples include field trips, PTA events, school wide events, assemblies, and “need to know information”.
- Add teacher e-mail links in the Directory section of the school website.
- Develop a website linked to the district to provide news, information, and classroom websites. Create all needed templates for Saratoga School webpage.
- Encourage teachers to post web information regarding classroom specifics, examples include grade level curriculum, reading and report information, etc. on a specific teacher web page. (Note: This could be done by a parent on a routine basis to make the information timely and fresh.)
- Make the use of the web the preferred communication tool by automating routine items typically made into paper copies. Examples include surveys, newsletters, flyers, etc.
- Campaign to parents (in newsletter, e-mails, etc.) that all relevant school information can be found on the web.
- Encourage the use of the school web page versus paper copies whenever possible to increase use.
- Continued effective use of list serve to get out information via email
- Provide new teacher computers and projectors for curriculum delivery and student projects
- Purchase or lease a new Risograph copy machine
- Purchase a projection screen and window shades for the computer lab

**Goal #9: Improving Student Achievement: English Language Support for Identified Students**

- Purchase of the Rosetta Stone curricular materials, listening center, and books on tape

**Goal #10: Improving Student Achievement: Improvement of materials and training in the school library**

- Increasing the number of titles in the library
- Replace older books
- Build a professional development library for staff and community members
- Provide professional development opportunities for the library clerk