

QUALITY PLANNING 2008- 2009 UPDATE

The Goals of the Greer Middle School Improvement Plan were modified to meet the increased criteria of state and national standards for the 2008-2009 school year. The instructional staff has been working to implement the objectives and strategies of the plan for 2008-2009. Since this is a continuous plan some of the strategies have been implemented but some are still in the planning and development stage awaiting time or funds for full implementation. In analyzing our data from PACT testing and surveys, we have tweaked our strategies in order to fully achieve our goals. Greer Middle School continues to implement the International Baccalaureate program and in doing so has made some changes in team planning, daily schedules and added a service learning component as a part of the International Baccalaureate initiative. These changes will be updated in this document in other sections.

School Improvement Plan

The Greer Middle School staff has stated the following goals and objectives for our school.

*Performance Goal Area 1: Raise the Academic Challenge
and Performance of Each Student.*

Performance Goal 1: ELA Performance Goal - From 2008-2009 until 2012-2013, the percent of students who meet or exceed their growth target RIT on the Reading MAP test will increase from 46% (example baseline) in 2007-08 to 60% in 2012-13. MAP target goals will increase by 3% each year, beginning with a goal of 49% in 2008-09

Objective 1: The percent of students meeting or exceeding their MAP target goals will increase by 3% annually

*Performance Goal Area 1: Raise the Academic Challenge
and Performance of Each Student.*

Performance Goal 1: : MATH Performance Goal - From 2008-2009 until 2012-2013, the percent of students who meet or exceed their growth target RIT on the MATH MAP test will increase from 40% in 2007-08 to 50% in 2012-13. MAP target goals will increase by 2% each year, beginning with a goal of 42% in 2008-09

Objective 1: The percent of students meeting or exceeding their MAP target goals will increase by 2% annually.

Performance Goal Area 2: Provide a School Environment Supportive of Learning

Performance Goal 1: The percentage of all core academic subject area teachers who are highly qualified as defined by NCLB in the appropriate content and grade will increase from 98.7% in 2008-2009 to 100% in 2009-2010 and remain at 100% until 2012-2013.

Objective 1: During the 2008-2009 school year 100% of the GMS teachers will be highly qualified either through advanced degree programs, Praxis exams or selective employment practices.

Performance Goal Area 3: Provide a school environment supportive of learning

Performance Goal 1: The number of parent involvement opportunities related to parent/teacher activities that support home/school relations will increase from 7 in 2007-2008 to 12 in 2012-2013.

Objective 1: The number of opportunities for parent involvement in activities that support home/school relations will increase by 1 each year until 2012-2013.

See the Plan for Improvement 2008-2009 for specifics about our goals, objectives, and strategies (Appendix A).

Student Expectations

We expect that our students will develop both scholastically and socially. Every class will develop content that is correlated to the state curriculum standards and use research proven techniques to deliver that content. Consequently, each student will be evaluated according to the content in the state standards. Each student is expected to become familiar with the areas of interaction as they relate to the International Baccalaureate program. We will develop and maintain good parent-teacher communications to ensure student success. Because our students will be eventually entering the world of work, it is imperative that they be cognizant of the expectations for them there. Therefore, we will instill a sense of discipline by developing the student's character, teaching them that there are consequences to their actions, that they must work with each other and instilling in them the importance of punctuality.

Mission

The mission of Greer Middle School is to empower students to become independent, productive learners who exemplify good character in an increasingly global society.

Refining the Guiding Principles of the School

We believe our students should:

- Give and be given respect

- Be constantly challenged with standards-driven curriculum and instruction
- Share the accountability for education with parents, teachers, and the community
- Receive curriculum, instruction, and assessment aligned to meet their individual learning needs
- Be able to communicate effectively and solve problems
- Feel safe both emotionally and physically in and out of the classroom
- Reflect upon ideas and events in a global setting
- Perform community service as a component of learning

Vision

When the vision of Greer Middle School is implemented, teachers will be assisting and supporting students who are actively engaged in optimal learning opportunities. Students will learn through relevant, hands-on instructional techniques that are geared to their learning needs. Students and teachers will be guided by the state and International Baccalaureate curriculum standards. Teams of teachers will strive to constantly evaluate student learning in order to promote the idea that assessment is the bridge to revision and academic growth. Vertical teaming will be used to provide a smooth transition for all students across all grade levels, from our feeder schools, and into high school. Real-world activities and research-based learning strategies will be used to make learning relevant for all students. Teachers will use ongoing authentic assessment of student learning that is aligned with the state and International Baccalaureate standards. Conversations about student success become a regular element of communication among students, parents, and teachers. Students will participate in service learning and reflect on what they have learned and how it may affect the world in which they live. This community will strive to create an environment of quality learning that heavily integrates technology into the school's curriculum and will be committed to student success through highly effective interaction and problem-solving. Students will continue their education

knowing they have even greater opportunities to become independent, productive learners in a global community.

Planning Time

Our teams have established specific times during the week that are reserved for teachers to meet and collaborate on the needs of their students. Our staff meetings have been conducted on Wednesdays during school. They are called TNT or Teachers In Training. Other staff development opportunities were provided after school, during team planning times and/ or during the specific workdays set aside by the district. The instructional coaches meet with teachers and teams to help improve and align teaching strategies to the state standards. In addition, Learning Focus techniques and best practices for classroom management were reviewed with the instructional coaches during team meetings. Department or vertical team meetings were held on a regular basis to discuss curriculum and updates on PASS and other important issues. The academic teachers at each grade level worked together to investigate improved ways to align core curriculum to the state standards.

Greer Middle School Team and Individual Planning Schedule

TEAM	TEAM PLANNING	INDIVIDUAL PLANNING
61	3 rd period Tuesday	3 rd & 4 th period daily
62	3 rd period Tuesday	3 rd & 4 th period daily
63	3 rd period Tuesday	3 rd & 4 th period daily
71	1 st period Tuesday	1 st & 2 nd period daily
72	1 st period Tuesday	1 st & 2 nd period daily
73	1 st period Tuesday	1 st & 2 nd period daily
81	6 th period Tuesday	6 th & 7 th period daily
82	6 th period Tuesday	6 th & 7 th period daily
83	6 th period Tuesday	6 th & 7 th period daily
RELATED ARTS	5 th period Tuesday.	5 th period daily
SPECIAL ED.	After school Thursday.	Varies by grade level

Technology Plan Summary

See the Technology Plan for 2008-2009 to view specific details (Appendix B).

Greer Middle School's technology committee meets several times a year to review the school's technology plan and re-evaluate the technology needs of Greer Middle. The committee members are principal Scott Rhymer, instructional coach Carlton Greene, technology teacher Erich Sturgill, Intel teacher Chris Elliott, Gateway to Technology teacher Brad Dill, I Coach Doraine Lee, and media specialist Gaelyn Jenksin. This committee creates our technology goals and objectives and meets periodically during the academic year. The group also is responsible for developing and implementing procedures for using our technology (lab, laptops, etc.). The technology committee also reviews and evaluates our teacher web sites. In addition the committee conducts professional development sessions for our teachers in the use of technology. These procedures help us to effectively use technology at Greer Middle School to further the goals and objectives of our portfolio.

The technology committee ensures that the school adheres to their mission statement: The Greer Middle Technology Team has determined that faculty and students should be able to use various technologies efficiently and effectively to access information, evaluate information and solve problems. At Greer Middle School we want

to “use technology to learn, nor just learn to use technology.” As a former Village Green school, a Gateway to Technology partner and an International Baccalaureate school, we are fortunate to have equipment and trained teachers to provide the faculty and students with various means to incorporate technology into each curriculum through in-services and modeling.

Greer Middle has two computer labs available for teacher checkout that are used on a regular basis for student learning activities. We have 90 portable laptops that are used in classrooms on a weekly basis and Promethean Boards in 37 classrooms. The keyboarding lab and Lab #1 have ceiling mounted data projectors. Our school through the school district program provides opportunities for teachers to meet technology requirements by taking Intel classes here. The technology committee provides a support team for teachers to encourage them to try new technology in their classroom. The team is currently attempting to complete the purchase of Promethean Boards for all of our core classes to aid in differentiated instruction.

Plan to Upgrade Facilities

Greer Middle School is a newer facility and the only change is a security entrance is being constructed in the front lobby of the building. The SIC committee in 2005 recommended an awning or cover for the rear car pick up area be installed. The district completed that work at the end of 2006. Greer Middle is in the process of upgrading its technology by purchasing Promethean Boards for core area teachers. These are multi-media boards with speaker and an amplifier. The upgrade will be complete when GMS purchases three more Promethean boards for core classes. The grounds continue to be improved with the planting of evergreen trees. Our plan is to continue to upgrade and improve technology as needed school-wide.

Summary of Progress

Our staff has established a set of goals and objectives for Greer Middle School. The implementation of the plan will begin in the spring of 2008. Our success in obtaining these goals will be evaluated starting in the spring of 2009. The majority of the year has been spent in evaluating and planning for the implementation of our school's goals.

Next Steps

The entire staff agrees these steps need to be implemented at the school level with respect to Quality Planning:

- All stakeholders need to support the portfolio quality plan for school wide improvement.
- Upgrading our technology with the latest hardware and software will remain a constant effort.
- Greater involvement by parents, community, and business is desired.
- Quality communication with all stakeholders is a priority.
- Equipping our teachers with timely training to fully utilize the technology available.