



St. Thomas More Middle School 2015-2016 Continuous Improvement Goals

In accordance with the RCCSS Strategic Design Plan and mission statement, “Developing Personal and Academic Excellence in the Catholic Tradition”, STM Middle School faculty annually reviews previous continuous improvement plans, student achievement results, along with student and stakeholder perception data. The RCCSS Continuous Improvement Committee reviewed SAT 10 testing data in areas of reading, science, language arts, social science, thinking skills and mathematics. Reading Plus data and in-house math diagnostic test data were also disaggregated. Mathematics in-house diagnostic exams were utilized to differentiate instruction according to student ability levels at the 7th and 8th grade level. In addition, all students were tested for keyboarding ability to ensure they meet grade level state standards. A keyboarding class has been added to the curriculum for those students not meeting those standards. Reading Plus data from last year will guide instruction in reading comprehension and vocabulary development throughout the middle school. Due to remarkable student data, Reading Plus will continue to be part of the middle school curriculum. STM Middle School staff set spiritual, personal, academic and curriculum goals, strategies, and interventions for the 2015-2016 calendar year.

Spiritual and Personal Goals

1. Recognizes and respects the dignity of the human person, and pursues Christian virtues through daily awareness. (Strategic Design Plan – Personal Sphere of Living)
2. Recognizes gifts and talents he/she has received from God and gratefully shares those gifts and talents with others through the Church, community, and universal service. (Strategic Design Plan – Civic Sphere of Living)
3. Navigate a digital world with behaviors supported by our Catholic values. (Strategic Design Plan – Economic Sphere of Living)

Strategies/ Interventions

1. Students are encouraged to participate in a large number of activities that support community involvement and a commitment to service: Packing Hope (all grade levels), student directed Service Projects (8th grade), School Recycling Project (7th grade), Community Outreach (6th grade), Life Runners (all grade levels), FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes), and Student Council.
2. Peer mentoring by STM high school students (TLC - Teen Life Choices) will take place monthly to work on the growth of the individual through character building exercises and anti-bullying education.
3. Parent education will be implemented throughout the year on the anti-bullying program to enable parents to join in the education process for their child.

4. Students will actively participate in liturgical ministries and each grade level class will have an “adopted priest” to foster more individualized learning about spiritual growth and life.
5. Faith and prayer will be consistently modeled and facilitated by faculty. In addition, Religion classes will reflect on what it means to have a “servant heart” before beginning annual service projects.
6. Supplemental curriculum has been incorporated to enhance morality and character development – New Corinthians (6th grade), Theology of the Body (7th grade), LifeSkills Training (7th grade), Etiquette (8th grade), Christian Life Choices lecture series (8th grade) and Online Ethics, Morality, and Safe Environment Education (all grade levels).
7. Students will be taught and required to monitor their own individual academic progress utilizing Plus Student Portals, student/teacher conferences, and mantel sessions to promote independence and responsibility in their personal growth.
8. Assessment of individual personal and spiritual growth needs in developing well-rounded, faith-filled students will occur at bi-monthly grade level faculty meetings and mantel sessions.
9. Religion instructors will provide instruction on using Catholic digital applications.
10. Witnesses to the Catholic faith will be invited to speak about faith formation.
11. Personal and spiritual goals in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade will be posted in classrooms.
12. New students will be partnered with a buddy to create a strong community.

Assessments

1. Periodic faculty, student and stakeholder surveys
2. Student Perception Data/Survey
3. Service binders
4. Amount of money donated/amount of food or other items collected
5. Student Council Representative meetings will assess student culture and needs
6. Faculty/Staff Observations

Academic Goals

SAT 10 Assessment was utilized at all grade levels to meet the State Standardized Testing Requirement.

Reading Goals

Reading Vocabulary (CC: L.6-8.4)

- Multiple meaning words
- Homophones

Reading Comprehension (CC: RL.6-8.10, RI.6-8.10)

- Strategies for how to read in individual content areas

Language (Writing) (CC: W.6-8.1)

- Persuasive - using evidence and clear reasoning to support the writer's claim

Strategies/Interventions

1. Curriculum instructors will integrate cross – curriculum projects in grade levels that incorporate text. For example: Scientist Research (all grades), World Music Discovery

(6th grade), Holocaust Project (7th grade), Freak the Mighty project (7th Grade), Saints Project (8th grade), “Romeo and Juliet” (8th grade), Science Rock Project (8th grade), School Speech Contest (6th – 8th), “The Magician’s Nephew” (7th grade), Etiquette (8th grade), Interview Project (8th Grade), and “Holes” (7th grade).

2. Administration will provide a structured agenda for bi-monthly grade level meetings that include goal review and evaluation.
3. Curriculum instructors will participate in grade level meetings with a set cross – curricular agenda item to encourage cross – curricular lessons.
4. All students will participate in the Reading Plus Program. Interventions will be added for students at the basic or lower proficiency reading level.
5. Data from Reading Plus program will be given to all teachers to guide instruction.
6. Curriculum instructors will provide resource links on their PlusPortals.
7. Consistent communication between classroom instructors and student resource instructors will facilitate student growth in comprehension with emphasis on test and project timelines.
8. K – 12 Media specialist will investigate and develop unique, rigorous reading opportunities for students who wish to pursue higher comprehension levels and growth. (Reading Book Clubs will be organized at all grade levels.)
9. Reading Plus will be utilized as a reading comprehension diagnostic to be implemented with new STM MS students.
10. Reading goals will be posted in all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classrooms.
11. Faculty will provide critical thinking opportunities within all subject areas to foster better student understanding and comprehension.
12. A method for documenting evidence of goal achievement will be created and implemented in pre, mid and post assessments.

Assessments

1. Standardized tests (ACT ASPIRE)
2. Reading Plus placement assessment and individualized student progress reports on a regular basis
3. Edutyping keyboarding test
4. Instructor designed tests
5. Observations

Math Goals

Working with Rational Numbers (CC: 6.NS, 7.NS, 8.NS)

- Whole number operations
- Decimal operations
- Fraction operations
- Story problems

Strategies/Interventions

1. Math teachers will create vocabulary reference pages for teachers to use in classrooms for cross-curricular purposes.
2. Administration will provide a structured agenda for grade level meetings that include goal review and evaluation.

3. All teachers will provide mathematical problem-solving opportunities within all subject areas, test scores (fraction, decimal and percents – percentage conversions).
4. Time will be provided for teachers to discuss vertical mathematics curricula alignment for grades 6-12.
5. Review/assessment will be incorporated into daily math lesson plans and continue across grade levels, including pre and post assessments annually.
6. Skill/ability grouping will be utilized in 7th and 8th grade based on math diagnostic exam, ACT ASPIRE test results, and teacher recommendation.
7. Math tutoring will be available outside of curriculum instruction time.
8. Peer tutoring will be utilized in class, tutoring sessions, and study skills.
9. Catholic Math League contest will be offered and promoted to anyone interested in participating in this after school activity.
10. Math teachers will review topic placement to ensure instruction/review before testing.
11. Math goals will be posted in all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classrooms.
12. Math teachers will research online resources for targeted student intervention, review and advancement (Example: Ten Marks).
13. A method for documenting evidence of goal achievement will be created and maintained by pre, mid, and post grade level assessments.

Assessments

1. Entrance math exams will be administered to all newly enrolled 7th and 8th grade students.
2. Standardized tests (ACT ASPIRE)
3. Instructor designed tests in both content specific areas and end of the year proficiency testing at each grade level
4. Teacher observations
5. Students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade will take math placement assessment for the subsequent school year.

Staff Development

1. Instructors will utilize grade level meetings twice a month to develop and implement cross-curricular projects. Grade level meetings will have a specific agenda to ensure cross – curricular discussion, goal review, and also to discuss specific question and vocabulary information pertaining to standardized testing and State Standards.
2. Instructors will actively share beneficial technology teaching tools with other instructors during grade level meetings, faculty meetings, and/or in-services. Technology integration will be the focus for curriculum development and instructional training.
3. Professional development will focus on formative assessment strategies, higher order questioning techniques, and critical thinking skills in the educational environment to increase student achievement and motivation.
4. Instructors will complete their second curriculum scope and sequence guide by January 1, 2016.
5. Continued education and utilization of current individual student data regarding Reading Plus will be provided to teachers and staff throughout the year to enable student differentiation.