

**Joseph L. McCourt Middle School**



***School Improvement Plan***  
**2008-2009**

# **Joseph L. McCourt Middle School**

## **School Improvement Plan**

### **Mission Statement**

Joseph L. McCourt Middle School is committed to providing an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust. Teachers will engage in best practice to provide all students with meaningful learning experiences. These experiences will ensure appreciation of one's individuality, a passion for all to become life-long learners and to be productive members of society.

### **Vision Statement**

We believe in:

- ❖ exemplifying cooperation, determination, responsibility, respect and pride
- ❖ fostering a safe, nurturing environment
- ❖ embracing different learning styles
- ❖ supporting academic, social and emotional needs
- ❖ creating curricula that is relevant, exploratory and challenging
- ❖ collaboration to form family and community partnerships

**Subject:** Middle School Practice

**Evidence:** Salt survey, School Improvement Team discussions, School Climate Committee discussions, Cumberland School Department Strategic Plan, Behavior plan data, and faculty survey.

**Result Statement and Strategy for improving student learning and changing instruction:**

By the end of the 2009 school year:

1. A school wide behavior policy will continue to be implemented
2. All teachers will use I-Grade and I-Parent will be piloted.
3. Middle level instructional practices will be implemented

<b>Major Steps or events that will be completed to achieve the result.</b>	<b>Persons responsible for completing each major step and targeted completion date.</b>	<b>Resources (time, people, money) dedicated to each major step.</b>	<b>Quarterly evaluation date for each major step.</b>
<b>1.1</b> Teachers will be trained on the behavior program.	PBIS universal team MMS Administrators S.I.T.	Faculty meetings Curriculum meetings Universal team & Target team	1 <sup>st</sup> _____ 2 <sup>nd</sup> _____ 3 <sup>rd</sup> _____ 4 <sup>th</sup> _____
<b>1.2</b> Initiate strategies to improve communication within the school and between school and home.	District Administrators MMS Administrators	I-Parent training in software Parent awareness List serve	1 <sup>st</sup> _____ 2 <sup>nd</sup> _____ 3 <sup>rd</sup> _____ 4 <sup>th</sup> _____
<b>1.3</b> Explore ways to meet student personalization	MMS Administrators S.I.T. Advisory committee	Advisory training Faculty meeting RIMLE	1 <sup>st</sup> _____ 2 <sup>nd</sup> _____ 3 <sup>rd</sup> _____ 4 <sup>th</sup> _____

**Evaluation of Success:**

- 1. 1-1.2** The success of the PBIS behavior program and communication strategies will be evaluated by data comparison.
- 1.3** The student personalization requirement will be evaluated by quarterly surveys administered by the PBIS.

**Reporting to families and community:**

The parents will be made aware of the success of the middle school goals through PTO meetings, Principal’s Coffee Hour and school newsletters. The community will be made aware of the success of the middle school goals through press releases to the Valley Breeze.

**Subject:** Reading

**Evidence:** Meetings with the: reading and English department, English co-coordinators and Assistant Superintendent, NECAP results, classroom assessments, sharing and examining student work, Personal Literacy Plans, DRA results

**Result Statement and Strategy for improving student learning and changing instruction:**

By the end of the 2009 school year:

1. Students will have access to apply and practice reading strategies using different types of literary text.
2. Students will have access to apply and practice reading strategies using different types of informational text.
3. Students will have many opportunities to respond to literature.
4. A grade level common task will be explored.

<b>Major Steps or events that will be completed to achieve the result.</b>	<b>Persons responsible for completing each major step and targeted completion date.</b>	<b>Resources (time, people, money) dedicated to each major step.</b>	<b>Quarterly evaluation date for each major step.</b>
<b>2-1</b> Implement modeling, guided instruction, and comprehension strategies to understand literary texts.	All teachers Paraprofessionals	Variety of leveled text Graphic organizers Reading specialists Supplemental materials and text	1 <sup>st</sup> _____ 2 <sup>nd</sup> _____ 3 <sup>rd</sup> _____ 4 <sup>th</sup> _____
<b>2-2</b> Implement modeling and guided instruction to: make inferences, identify cause and effect, depict conflicts and explain the narrator’s point of view.	All teachers Paraprofessionals	Variety of leveled text Graphic organizers Reading specialists Supplemental materials and text	1 <sup>st</sup> _____ 2 <sup>nd</sup> _____ 3 <sup>rd</sup> _____ 4 <sup>th</sup> _____
<b>2-3</b> Response to literature will have: a focus, organization, details and elaboration, and voice.	All teachers Paraprofessionals	English Dept. meetings Supplemental materials and text	1 <sup>st</sup> _____ 2 <sup>nd</sup> _____ 3 <sup>rd</sup> _____ 4 <sup>th</sup> _____
<b>2-3A</b> Six Traits of writing will be utilized in the classroom.	All teachers Paraprofessionals	Continue training and implementation Committee of Common Tasks	1 <sup>st</sup> _____ 2 <sup>nd</sup> _____ 3 <sup>rd</sup> _____ 4 <sup>th</sup> _____
<b>2-4</b> A committee will be formed to explore, implement and determine grade level common tasks.	SIT Administration ELA teachers	Supplemental materials & text NECAP released items Departmental meetings for ELA	1 <sup>st</sup> _____ 2 <sup>nd</sup> _____ 3 <sup>rd</sup> _____ 4 <sup>th</sup> _____

**Evaluation of Success:**

The success of the reading goals will be evaluated by the analysis of NECAP results, ELA department meetings, and quarterly grades, classroom assessment and student work.

**Reporting to families and community:**

The parents will be made aware of the success of the reading goals through PTO meetings, Principal’s Coffee Hour and school newsletters. The community will be made aware of the success of the reading goals through press releases to the Valley Breeze.

**Subject:** Writing

**Evidence:** Meetings with the: English department, English co-coordinators, faculty and Assistant Superintendent, NECAP results, classroom assessments, sharing and examining student work

**Result Statement and Strategy for improving student learning and changing instruction:**

By the end of the 2009 school year:

1. Student’s writing will have a clear purpose.
2. Students will have organized writing pieces.
3. Students will write with elaboration and detail.
4. Writing will have voice and sentence fluency.
5. Students will practice use of proper conventions.
6. The Six Write Traits will continue to be taught.
7. All teachers will utilize the McCourt Writing Rubric.
8. A grade level common task will be explored.

<b>Major Steps or events that will be completed to achieve the result.</b>	<b>Persons responsible for completing each major step and targeted completion date.</b>	<b>Resources (time, people, money) dedicated to each major step.</b>	<b>Quarterly evaluation date for each major step.</b>
<b>3-1.</b> Writing will have a purpose, opening statement, and focus. Prior knowledge will be evident in the students writing.	All teachers Paraprofessionals	Writing professional development Supplemental materials & text English Dept.	1 <sup>st</sup> _____ 2 <sup>nd</sup> _____ 3 <sup>rd</sup> _____ 4 <sup>th</sup> _____
<b>3-2.</b> Writing will have an introduction, body and conclusion. Paragraphs will have a topic sentence and supporting details. Transitions will be used effectively.	All teachers Paraprofessionals	Writing professional development Supplemental materials & text English Dept.	1 <sup>st</sup> _____ 2 <sup>nd</sup> _____ 3 <sup>rd</sup> _____ 4 <sup>th</sup> _____
<b>3-3.</b> All writing will have details and elaboration that is appropriate for the grade level and effectiveness of the writing piece. Lessons on elaboration will be taught.	All teachers Paraprofessionals	Writing professional development Supplemental materials & text English Dept.	1 <sup>st</sup> _____ 2 <sup>nd</sup> _____ 3 <sup>rd</sup> _____ 4 <sup>th</sup> _____
<b>3-4.</b> Purposeful instruction of: transitions, word choice, sentence combination, sentence structure and variety	English teachers Paraprofessionals	Writing professional development Supplemental materials & text English Dept.	1 <sup>st</sup> _____ 2 <sup>nd</sup> _____ 3 <sup>rd</sup> _____ 4 <sup>th</sup> _____
<b>3-5.</b> Daily edits will be used in classes.	English teachers Paraprofessionals	Daily Edit supplemental material	1 <sup>st</sup> _____ 2 <sup>nd</sup> _____ 3 <sup>rd</sup> _____ 4 <sup>th</sup> _____
<b>3-6.</b> All writing assignments across the curriculum will be based on the Six Write Traits.	All teachers Paraprofessionals	Six Trait PD English Dept. SIT	1 <sup>st</sup> _____ 2 <sup>nd</sup> _____ 3 <sup>rd</sup> _____ 4 <sup>th</sup> _____

<p><b>3-7.</b> All writing pieces across the curriculum will include the McCourt Writing Rubric.</p>	<p>All teachers Paraprofessionals</p>	<p>English Dept. SIT</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> _____ 2<sup>nd</sup> _____ 3<sup>rd</sup> _____ 4<sup>th</sup> _____</p>
<p><b>3-7A.</b> Form a committee to complete a comprehensive review of the school-wide writing practices.</p>	<p>SIT Administration Faculty</p>	<p>Writing PD SIT English Dept</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> _____ 2<sup>nd</sup> _____ 3<sup>rd</sup> _____ 4<sup>th</sup> _____</p>
<p><b>3-8.</b> A committee will be formed to explore, implement and determine grade level common tasks.</p>	<p>SIT Administration Faculty</p>	<p>Supplemental materials &amp; text NECAP released items Departmental meetings for ELA</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> _____ 2<sup>nd</sup> _____ 3<sup>rd</sup> _____ 4<sup>th</sup> _____</p>

**Evaluation of Success:** The success of the writing goals will be evaluated by the analysis of NECAP results, ELA department meetings, faculty meetings, quarterly grades, classroom assessment and student work.

**Reporting to families and community:** The parents will be made aware of the success of the writing goals through PTO meetings, Principal’s Coffee Hour and school newsletters. The community will be made aware of the success of the reading goals through press releases to the Valley Breeze.

**Subject:** Mathematics

**Evidence:** Meetings with the: math department, math co-coordinators and Assistant Superintendent, NECAP results, classroom assessments, sharing and examining student work.

**Result Statement and Strategy for improving student learning and changing instruction:**

By the end of the 2009 school year:

1. Students will demonstrate understanding of numbers and operations and utilize a variety of problem solving strategies to investigate and understand complex mathematical content.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of functions and Algebra and equality.
3. Students will express knowledge of basic geometry and measurement.
4. Students will communicate and demonstrate an understanding of mathematical ideas through proof, connections, and representations.
5. Effectively analyze, organize, and Interpret data. As well as hypothesize and predict the probability of likely events.
6. A grade level common task will be explored.

Major Steps or events that will be completed to achieve the result.	Persons responsible for completing each major step and targeted completion date.	Resources (time, people, money) dedicated to each major step.	Quarterly evaluation date for each major step.
4-1. Implement daily math practice to reinforce number and operation concepts and problem solving strategies throughout the curriculum.	All teachers Paraprofessionals	Math Remediation Supplemental materials & text Time to explore and research new programs.	1 <sup>st</sup> _____ 2 <sup>nd</sup> _____ 3 <sup>rd</sup> _____ 4 <sup>th</sup> _____
4-2. Implement the practice of developing a conceptual understanding of algebraic expressions.	All teachers Paraprofessionals	Supplemental materials & text Departmental meetings for math and science.	1 <sup>st</sup> _____ 2 <sup>nd</sup> _____ 3 <sup>rd</sup> _____ 4 <sup>th</sup> _____
4-3. Implement geometric concepts using words, symbols, diagrams and properties of measurement.	All teachers Paraprofessionals	Supplemental materials & text Departmental meetings for math and science. Internet resources	1 <sup>st</sup> _____ 2 <sup>nd</sup> _____ 3 <sup>rd</sup> _____ 4 <sup>th</sup> _____
4-4. Logically connect, communicate and demonstrate mathematical ideas across the curriculum.	All teachers Paraprofessionals	Supplemental materials & text Departmental meetings for math and science. Internet resources	1 <sup>st</sup> _____ 2 <sup>nd</sup> _____ 3 <sup>rd</sup> _____ 4 <sup>th</sup> _____
4-5. Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze patterns, trends and distribution in data.	All teachers Paraprofessionals	Supplemental materials & text Departmental meetings for math and science. Internet resources Real world data	1 <sup>st</sup> _____ 2 <sup>nd</sup> _____ 3 <sup>rd</sup> _____ 4 <sup>th</sup> _____

<p><b>4-6.</b> A committee will be formed to explore, implement and determine grade level common tasks and make uniform strategies for “The Problem Solver”.</p>	<p>SIT Administration Math teachers</p>	<p>Supplemental materials &amp; text NECAP released items Departmental meetings for math</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> _____ 2<sup>nd</sup> _____ 3<sup>rd</sup> _____ 4<sup>th</sup> _____</p>
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**Evaluation of Success:** The success of the math goals will be evaluated by the analysis of NECAP results, Math and science department meetings, quarterly grades, classroom assessments, and student work.

**Reporting to families and community:**  
The parents will be made aware of the success of the math goals through PTO meetings, Principal’s Coffee Hour and school newsletters. The community will be made aware of the success of the math goals through press releases to the Valley Breeze.