

WANATAH PUBLIC SCHOOL
K-8
2021-2024
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT
AND
ACHIEVEMENT PLAN

Submitted by:

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Brian McMahan, Principal

I. Introduction:

Narrative description of the school, the community, and the educational programs

Wanatah Public School is a community of approximately 260 students in preschool through grade eight from Cass, Dewey, and Prairie Townships in Southern LaPorte County as well as surrounding areas. Wanatah Public School is located in a rural, agricultural area, which includes the towns of LaCrosse and Wanatah. Wanatah Public School is now part of Tri-Township Consolidated School Corporation, formed in 2012. This consolidation includes Prairie and Dewey Townships of LaPorte County. This corporation is under the supervision of Superintendent M. Kelly Shepherd.

The community has seen significant mobility. The number of homes in our community has increased. There is a significant religious influence with many churches of various denominations located within our attendance area. Most of the parents are employed in skilled and semi-skilled occupations in nearby cities and urban centers. We have 37% of our students receiving free lunches and 10% receiving reduced-price lunches.

The school building was built in 1961 with a million-dollar renovation completed in 1982. The building houses both the elementary and middle school students. In 1999, a 1.2 million-dollar addition/renovation was finalized. In 2001, air conditioning was added to the remaining classrooms that did not have it; two computer laboratories, a science laboratory, art and music rooms, and four new elementary classrooms were added. A new “Benchmark Boilers” system was added in the fall of 2007 and an updated playground with safety equipment was established in 2006. During the summer of 2015, we renovated the Administration Office and added a conference room as well. The largest change is that all students grades K-8 are now 1:1 with Chromebooks. In September of 2021, we started construction on a 5 classroom addition plus remodeling of three classrooms that will allow us to move our high school to Wanatah.

The school is especially fortunate to have many excellent teachers who have always placed a strong emphasis on academic excellence. As a result, our school has been awarded numerous Indiana School Incentive Award Grants based on attendance and achievement scores. Scholastic achievement is supported by student participation in co-curricular activities such as Read-a-Thon, Gifted and Talented Programs for all grades, Student Council, Spell Bowl, the County Spelling Bee, Academic Olympics, Academic Super Bowl, Enrichment Classes, and Accelerated Reader Program.

A full time counselor and a full time nurse are providing support services to the student body. The full time counselor also presents Anti-Bullying lessons regularly to all students. We also offer after-school child care on-site.

Contributing significantly to the students’ success are athletics, music, and art programs. Together they provide extra-curricular experiences for the majority of our students in grades K-8.

Our parents are particularly important as they provide a very supportive link in the school’s programs. In addition to attending meetings on educational issues, their input has been essential in assuring the success of fund-raising projects and in volunteering for many other school activities.

In addition to the regular school year curriculum, we have in-school and after-school remediation programs. This teacher-led remediation program focuses on grade-level standards. We have also incorporated an RTI program.

- **Curriculum**

Wanatah Public School Curriculum is closely aligned with the Indiana College and Career Ready Standards adopted by the Indiana State Board of Education. Teachers at Wanatah, under the direction of the building principal, provide enrichment and regular differentiation of the curriculum with various educational activities throughout the year.

Copies of grade-level curriculum are found in each classroom. We also have worked on mapping the curriculum for grades K-8 for Language Arts and Math.

- **Assessments**

Wanatah Public School will administer ILEARN to students in grades 3-8 in the Spring. On file, we have comparison charts for ISTEP+ over the past three years for each student. These charts and our collected data from NWEA's MAP Assessment help us to determine our weaknesses and strengths

Our standardized formative assessment in grades K-8 is NWEA's MAP Assessment. Star Reading is also administered to all students in grades K-8. In addition to this, IREAD is given to Grade 3.

Benchmark unit reading tests are administered to students after completion of each reading unit (McGraw-Hill/Wonders). These tests serve both an evaluation purpose and as a diagnostic tool for progress monitoring of the students. The purpose of testing at Wanatah Public School is primarily formative in nature, and it is used to support instruction.

Star Reading is used as a reading progress assessment tool for our K-8 students. Accelerated Reader is a formative assessment tool used to monitor student progress in grades first through eighth.

WIDA ACCESS is an assessment given to all English/Language Learners.

The Inview Assessment is given to all 2nd, 5th and 8th grade students in order to identify high ability students. The CogAT Assessment Screener is given to all Kindergarten students in order to identify high ability students as well.

II. Statement of Mission, Vision, and Beliefs

Mission Statement:

Wanatah Public School incorporates academic standards, community resources, and diversity in providing opportunities for educational success. The Wanatah Public School community share in their responsibility to provide a safe, stimulating, and meaningful learning environment leading to academic, emotional, physical, social, and ethical growth for every student.

Vision Statement:

Wanatah Public School's vision is to encompass the needs of all students in order to help them achieve their greatest learning potential. We envision our students, with the aid of faculty, staff, and community, meeting and surpassing Indiana State Proficiencies. The staff, parents, and community will guide the development of our students to ensure intellectual, emotional, social, and physical growth. There will be mutual respect and

acceptance of diversity among all members of the school community.

Beliefs:

Wanatah Public School community adheres to the following beliefs:

- Every child is worthy and merits the opportunity to a quality education.
- Every child deserves a safe and healthy school environment where everyone is treated with respect.
- Every child shall be involved in meaningful activities which reinforce their strengths, address their weaknesses, and provide for academic growth.
- Every child shall be granted the opportunity for emotional, physical, social, and ethical growth.

School Improvement Committee Membership Committee

Members and Positions

Brian McMahan –Principal

Alissa Clemons – Committee Chairperson

Bill Stark – Middle School Science Teacher

Devan Rushing – K-8 Art Teacher

Katie Wright – Special Education Teacher, K-8

Angela Woods – Guidance Counselor, K-8

Jennifer Abernathy – Kindergarten Teacher

Anna Susdorf – 4th Grade Teacher

Katie McClain – 1st Grade Teacher

Carolyn Marks – parent

Amy Wozniak – parent

Karlie Carr – parent

Documentation of the Annual Review of the Strategic and Continuous School Improvement Plan by the School Improvement Committee

Have a majority membership of the School Improvement Committee sign on this page prior to the following dates: 10/11/19; 10/09/20; 10/08/2021

Certification of Annual Review	Certification of Annual Review	Certification of Annual Review
Date: _____	Date: _____	Date: _____

Principal

Committee Member

Committee Member Committee Member

Committee Member

Documentation of Support for the Professional Development Section of the Strategic and Continuous School Improvement Plan by the Tri-Township Consolidated Schools Teachers Association

As required by 511 IAC 6.2-3-3, I, as a representative of the Tri-Township Consolidated Schools Teachers Association, have reviewed and am in support of the Professional Development Section of the Strategic and Continuous School Improvement Plan for Wanatah Public School

Signature of a representative of the Tri-Township Teachers Association

Printed name of a representative of the Tri-Township Teachers Association

Date

III. Summary of Data, Derived from an Assessment of the Current Status of Educational Programming:

A. Data from the Annual Performance Report:

ILEARN SPRING 2021	ELA	Math
3rd Grade	56%	63%
4th Grade	57%	52%
5th Grade	33%	33%
6th Grade	12%	4%
7th Grade	24%	0%
8th Grade	44%	7%
Overall	38%	27%

ILEARN SPRING 2019	ELA	Math
3rd Grade	35%	50%
4th Grade	35%	43%
5th Grade	59%	62%
6th Grade	52%	44%
7th Grade	35%	35%
8th Grade	77%	55%
Overall	49%	48%

ISTEP+ 2018	ELA	Math
3rd Grade	48%	29%
4th Grade	71%	81%
5th Grade	59%	72%
6th Grade	54%	43%
7th Grade	77%	65%

8th Grade	63%	52%
Overall	62%	58%

**Corporation Results: Science and Social Studies by Grade Level Tri-Township
Consolidated School Corporation**

Test Subject	2019 ILEARN Proficiency	2021 ILEARN Proficiency
Grade 4 Science	35%	48%
Grade 6 Science	48%	32%
Grade 5 Social Studies	62%	48%

• Other Information and Educational Programming and Learning Environment

Listed are some additional educational programs and learning environment offered at Wanatah Public School:

- Full-Day Kindergarten
- BAT (Basic Aid Training) Class
- Read-a-Thon
- Spelling City
- Gifted & Talented Programming
- Accelerated Reader
- Social Studies Fair/Health Fair/Science Fair
- Spelling Bee
- Title 1 Services: ELA and Math
- Book-It
- Academic Olympics
- Allied Arts: Band, Choir, Art, Digital Art
- Drama Club
- Name That Book Competition
- Academic Spell Bowl
- Academic Super Bowl
- Field Day
- Running Club
- Girls on the Run
- Flag Education
- Middle School Leadership Training Day
- P.A.T.H. Program (Positive Approach to Teen Health)
- Enrichment Day (District Wide Collaboration)
- Middle School SUCCESS Program
- Friendship Club
- Chess Club
- Student Council
- Growth Mindset Curriculum (K-8)
- Certified Preschool for 4-year-olds
- High School Credits for 8th graders (academic qualification)

IV. Conclusions of the Current Educational Programming Derived from an Assessment of the Current Status of Educational Programming

A. Curriculum-Indiana College and Career Ready Standards

The Wanatah Public School core curriculum is based on Indiana's College and Career Ready Standards. With the recent revisions of the standards realignment has become a major focus for curriculum teachers.

B. Information concerning how the school's instructional strategies support the achievement of Indiana academic standards.

Aligning the 2014 Indiana College and Career Ready Standards is the first step in providing instructional

strategies that will prepare the foundation for future state testing including ISTEP+.

C. Analysis of student achievement based on (ISTEP) and other assessment Strategies:

The commitment for Wanatah Public School is to use assessment data for the improvement of student instruction. The emphasis is placed on the use of approved tests for diagnostic purposes and progress monitoring. The identification of student strengths and weaknesses are viewed as necessary to providing appropriate instruction for students.

D. Parental Participation in the school:

Wanatah Public School believes in and encourages parent and community involvement and is always looking for new paths of participation. This effort is achieved by a close relationship between staff, parents, PTO, and the School Improvement Committee. Activities planned throughout the year that bring the school and community together include:

- Scholastic Book Fair
- Fun Fair
- Fall Concert
- Winter Music Program
- Spring Concert
- Academic and Athletic Olympics
- Educational Field Trips
- Middle School Lock-Ins
- Middle School Fall Dance
- Veteran's Day Program
- Jump-Rope-for-Heart
- Athletic Awards Banquets
- Back to School Open House
- Annual Food Drive for Food Pantry
- Numerous Give Back Nights in the Community
- Kindergarten Graduation
- Fish Fry
- Father/Daughter Dance and Mother/Son Dance
- 8th Grade Farewell
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Scarecrow Festival
- Robotics Club Mentors

The Parent Teacher Organization: Tiger Parent Volunteers provides on-going support for, or is the major Co-coordinator for the following annual events:

- Fun Fair
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Grandparent's Breakfast
- Drug Awareness Week
- Popcorn Days
- Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
- Financial support for new playground equipment
- Financial support for Academics Fair
- Financial support for Honor Roll incentives

- Financial support for landscape improvements
- School Calendars
- Box Tops
- Script Fundraising

Our Tiger Parent Volunteers Organization is outstanding in organizing and working with our school. The parents have been very involved in supporting Wanatah Public School. They are a tremendous asset to our school.

Parents and community members also provide for, support, and serve the school in the following ways:

- Chaperoning field trips
- Chaperoning activities
- Volunteering at Scarecrow Festival Activities
- Substitute teaching when qualified
- Serving on School Improvement Committee and Health/Wellness Committee ● 8th Grade Parent/Student Field Trip
- Middle School Parent Sponsors and Fundraisers
- Girl Scouts
- Boy Scouts
- Boys and Girls 4-H meetings
- Lions Club meals
- Poms Camp
- Basketball Youth League Programs/Coaching

E. Technology as a Learning Tool:

Technology is used as a learning tool both in elementary and the middle school. Wanatah Public School has one computer MacBook cart that is used in Middle School Digital Art. All grades K-8 students are 1-1 with Chromebooks. Our school has a Smart Board in every core curriculum classroom with a laptop for every classroom teacher. Classrooms also have document cameras. All students have multiple opportunities to use technology as a learning tool in order to enrich their learning and build their technology skills. Both elementary and middle schools use Educational Apps, Google Classroom and the Internet as a resource tool for major projects.

F. Safe and disciplined learning environment:

- Classroom rules are turned into the principal every year.
- Student Handbooks outline school policies and rules.
- Crisis Intervention Manual are in every classroom and is reviewed and updated annually by the Safety Committee.
- Fire and Storm Drills are conducted regularly as required by State Law.
- Lockdown Drills are conducted as required by State Law.
- Playground and Gym Rules discussed with students.
- Bus drivers annually participate in a safety course review.
- Bus drivers discuss safety and perform emergency evacuation procedures with the students.

G. Professional Development:

Wanatah Public School Professional Development includes:

- Instructional Technology Techniques
- Anti-Bullying Training
- Cyber-Bullying Prevention Training
- Suicide Prevention Training
- Seclusion & Restraint Training
- FERPA Training
- Internal Controls Training
- RTI
- Colleague Collaboration time is built into the daily schedule
- Harmony Training
- Indiana State Reading Plan
- College and Career Readiness Standards Training
- NWEA Training
- Coaches Concussion Training
- ILEARN Training
- I-READ Training
- CPI Crisis Intervention Training
- CPR Certification

V. Student Achievement Outcomes

A. Attendance Rate Objective: continue to increase our attendance percentage by utilizing parent phone calls daily and by enforcing the LaPorte County Attendance Program.

B. ILEARN Benchmark: Increase the total number of students passing both sections of the ILEARN exam, as well as passing the Science and Social Studies sections of the exam.

VI. Specific areas where improvement is needed immediately:

Wanatah School is working to improve their standardized testing scores in math, language arts, science and social studies as well as meet all of the state proficiencies. This effort includes specific Professional Development for ILEARN preparation for teachers. MAP Assessment testing data is systematically reviewed by classroom teachers, special education personnel, the Title 1 teacher, and our High Ability teacher. Online remediation resources as well as teacher-created resources are used.

VII. Benchmarks for progress that specify how and to what extent the school expects to continue improvement in all areas of the education system:

Within three years, Wanatah Public School students will improve ILEARN scores in the area of Language Arts to 70% of all students passing.

Within three years, Wanatah Public School students will improve ILEARN scores in the area of Math at 70% of all students passing.

This year, we have made major progress because we are above state averages in all Science and Social Studies test passing rates as well as many of ELA and Math state averages. Our goal is to experience growth in our scores, so they are **all** above state averages again. Wanatah Public School faculty will encompass the skills of Language Arts and Math across the grade levels through a united, enthusiastic, and dedicated team to approach maximum performance from both students and faculty.

● **Proposed interventions based on school improvement goals:**

Targeted professional development for teachers will be the key to the success of planned interventions. The proposed interventions based on school improvement goals are as follows:

- Standardized Tests
- NWEA Testing
- Remediation
- Pre-ILEARN Remediation
- Daily Oral Language Sentences
- RTI (Response to Intervention)
- Summer School
- Growth Mindset Implementation
 - M-Class
 - Star Reading

● **Professional development that is coordinated with proposed interventions that will support sustainable school improvement efforts.**

- Language Arts and Math
- Student Surveys
- Portfolios
- Test Scores
- Teacher Observations
- Professional Articles
- Teacher Surveys
- Student Interviews
- Report Cards
- Lexile Assessments

Statutes to be waived: None

Strategy	Responsibility	Start Date	Status/Finish Date
Continue using Balanced Literacy techniques in K-2 classrooms.	McMahan K-2 Teachers	August 2021	Ongoing
Instruct Math, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies based on College and Career Readiness Standards.	McMahan Teachers	August 2021	Ongoing
Review NWEA Data in Grades K-8 and ILEARN (3-8) to identify individual student needs in order to provide remediation as well as challenge activities to all	Shepherd Woods McMahan Teachers	August 2021	Ongoing

students.			
Teachers will be proficient and will stay abreast of new technology trends in education: Chromebooks for K-8	Teachers Kieszkowski	August 2021	Ongoing
Improve Parent/School Communication through phone calls, emails, social media, and newsletters and track it/provide evidence to the office.	McMahan Teachers	August 2021	Ongoing