

**Darien Public Schools
APPROVED
District Goals 2019-2020**

Board of Education/Superintendent of Schools	Action Steps	Board of Education Presentation Item	Status: Fall, Winter, Spring Update	Continuation for 2020-2021
Engage the district in a process of strategic planning to guide the work of the Board of Education and Darien Public Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop, present and implement Superintendent’s 90 Day Entry Plan to the district ● Present Entry Plan’s key findings ● Review the district’s current planning documents and procedures ● Engage the Board of Education in the strategic planning process ● Begin developing guiding documents and short/long term goals that will inform the district’s next level of work 	Early Fall/Winter/ Late Spring	x	x
Curriculum & Instruction	Action Steps	Board of Education Presentation Item	Status: Fall, Winter, Spring Update	Continuation for 2020-2021
Study the current “exploratory” model (electives being offered, 6-8) at MMS in relation to best practice and continuous growth and make recommendations as appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School-based leadership will develop a working committee with teachers and curriculum department chairpersons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Research and identify best practices in the literature ○ Study other school districts and models offered to middle-school aged children ● Collect feedback from teachers, parents, and students regarding the current “exploratory” model at MMS, as well as areas for growth ● Identify scheduling options available and impact on resources (budget and human) 	Late Winter/ Late Spring		x
Assess the current placement structures across all courses and levels and identify appropriate practices based on the vision/philosophy of the Darien Public Schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify current practices across departments/levels (course types: AP, Honors, Accelerated) and gather feedback from department members ● Research and identify best practices in and for developing appropriate placement practices 	Early Spring		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study placement practices across other school districts • Present findings to department members in order to reflect on ways to improve practices • Develop a calibrated vision/philosophy on course placement practices across departments and identify needs and make changes as appropriate 			
<p>Actualize the vision of the re-imagined library with a physical and digital destination that supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>independence and collaboration</i> • <i>inquiry, creativity, and reflection</i> • <i>an inspirational, dynamic, and well-resourced space.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library collections to be weeded to within AASL guidelines to create more open spaces • Excess furniture and outdated equipment to be removed • Identify and contract with architect to actualize design specifications outlined in Re-Imagining Libraries report for each library space • Collaborate with Facilities & Business office to develop costs for re-engineering library spaces • Work with BOE, PTO, and Darien Community Foundation to identify potential funding sources • Develop 2020-21 budget proposal to fund renovation of library spaces • Work with principals, school-based committees, architect, Facilities, Business, and IT to finalize plans in anticipation for Summer 2020 start 	Winter	x	
<p>Create a plan for future work that offers students balanced coursework that serves to create a Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) mindset (creator, critical thinker innovator, entrepreneur, changemaker, and communicator).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify STEM current practices across levels and content areas • Collaborate with leadership team and teachers to establish a framework for the Darien Public Schools • Finalize the K-12 Library Media Curriculum to align with new International Society of Technology in Education (ISTE), American Association of School Librarians (AASL), and current curriculum units of study 		x	x

Business	Action Steps	Board of Education Presentation Item	Status: Fall, Winter, Spring Update	Continuation for 2020-2021
----------	------------------------------	--------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	----------------------------

<p>Review and assess current Darien Public Schools business practices/structures and determine a roadmap/goals for the future.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with various stakeholders and discuss current structures (strengths/needs). • Review documents, reports, and systems to determine growth areas and make recommendations to the Superintendent of Schools and Finance Committee as appropriate 		<p>x</p>	
--	---	--	----------	--

<p>Special Education</p>	<p>Action Steps</p>	<p>Board of Education Presentation Item</p>	<p>Status: Fall, Winter, Spring Update</p>	<p>Continuation for 2020-2021</p>
<p>Conduct an Early Literacy Program (ELP) early literacy instruction program review of the provision of language and literacy experiences for preschool students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Early Learning Program (ELP) has received a grant award from the Connecticut State Department of Education which it will utilize to conduct an early literacy instruction program review utilizing experts from Literacy How, Inc. • Professional development will be provided by Literacy How Inc., over three days during the 2019-2020 school year. • We will develop protocols and procedures for the identification of early learning literacy differences in students and instructional approaches to address their needs. 	<p>Early Winter/Spring</p>		
<p>Provide professional development targeting extending Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) to elementary schools, PROMPT (Prompts for Restructuring Oral Muscular Phonetic Targets) therapy, Wilson Reading Systems, and assessment instruments.</p> <p>Conduct a self-study of the continuum of specialized instruction at the elementary level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary mental health teams will receive training and bi-weekly coaching in DBT. • Targeted speech and language pathologists will be trained in PROMPT (Prompts for Restructuring Oral Muscular Phonetic Targets) therapy. • Selected teachers and new staff will be provided a 3-day introductory workshop and complete year-long Level 1 Wilson training. • Targeted staff will be trained in the administration of the Autism Diagnostic Observation System - 2 (ADOS-2), the Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing - 2 (CTOPP-2), and the Woodcock Reading Mastery Test-III (WRMT-III). • Dr. Marilyn Friend will work with elementary school-based administrators to review current 	<p>Late Winter/Spring</p>		

District Goals 2019-2020

	practices of specially designed instruction.			
Design and implement opportunities for parent education on critical topics in special education and student services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing meetings and collaboration with parent organizations in Darien Public Schools and the community. • Conduct parent education programs at the building and district-levels (e.g., understanding assessments and IEPs). 			

Human Resources	Action Steps	Board of Education Presentation Item	Status: Fall, Winter, Spring Update	Continuation for 2020-2021
Promote the effective and efficient operation of the school district.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct Negotiations with the Teachers, Secretaries, Nurses and Paraprofessionals. 		x	
Support the professional capital of the staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and revise, as needed, the administrator evaluation plan. • Implement the new, in-house, data management system for evaluation of certified staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide training for staff on new system ○ Monitor use of the system and collect feedback • Identify areas for professional growth for non-certified staff and provide training 		x	

Community	Action Steps	Board of Education Presentation Item	Status: Fall, Winter, Spring Update	Continuation for 2020-2021
Evaluate the Darien Public Schools current communication practices and determine areas for continued growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect feedback/usage from stake-holders on the various tools for communication, such as: social media, News of the Week, DPS Magazine, School-Based Newsletters, etc... 		x	

Facilities	Action Steps	Board of Education Presentation Item	Status: Fall, Winter, Spring Update	Continuation for 2020-2021
Ensure the safety and security of the Darien school community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the need for additional security across all schools. 	Fall	x	x
Identify a permanent solution for the school district's storage needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with Facilities Committee Collect input from various groups to ensure equity 		x	
Support the Ox Ridge Construction Project to ensure timeliness, efficiencies, and adherence to the educational specifications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue collaborating Ox Ridge Building Committee as a resource 	**Updates provided by committee to BOE as needed		

Technology	Action Steps	Board of Education Presentation Item	Status: Fall, Winter, Spring Update	Continuation for 2020-2021
Finalize the district technology vision and plan, and ensure its direction, alignment and fidelity to the district's overall strategic academic plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-establish technology committee (2018-2019) to review vision and plan to ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> it lays the groundwork for learning goals and how technology can best meet those goals; it is aligned to the district's overall curriculum and instruction goals; and, technology use moves from proficient to transformative. Collect feedback from additional stakeholders outside of the committee and make adjustments as appropriate Create opportunities to share the plan with the Darien Public Schools community Develop a structure to ensure plan implementation 		x	
Create a technology professional learning plan for faculty and administrators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect feedback from faculty and administrators on individualized learning needs and build a fluid, forward thinking professional learning plan to ensure that teachers and administrators receive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foundational training that aligns to academic goals including accessibility, digital 		x	

fluency, design thinking, platform training (Google, OS/iOS, Aspen, Office, etc) and technology integration.

- Opportunities to obtain professional certifications (Google level 1 & 2, Apple Teacher (HS), ISTE, Common Sense and AASL).