Mahwah Schools

Strategic Plan 2020-2025 Update

Year Three: Mid-Year Progress

February 15, 2023

Mahwah Blueprint: The Vision



Our Progress…

Curriculum and Instruction

Goal Statement – Curriculum and Instruction

To develop a rich and diverse standards-based curriculum that challenges and inspires our children through the use of essential 21st century learning opportunities, for an ever-changing society. To further build the learners' capacity for success in the areas of collaboration, critical and creative thinking, respectfully nurturing their future pathway choices.

- Regularly evaluate our curricula to ensure that our students are immersed in a well-balanced and diverse educational experience.
- Think globally about educational impact and how students can use their knowledge beyond the four walls of the classroom - rooted in inquiry, diverse perspective, self-advocacy, and civic engagement.
- Continually invest in our educators and provide professional development opportunities to increase their capacity in developing and implementing 21st century pedagogy, as well as diversity training to ensure that all staff are comfortable discussing race, equity, and equality as appropriate by grade level.
- Provide opportunities for all students to participate in authentic learning experiences that encourage them to be problem-solvers, critical thinkers, collaborative members of a group, and risk-takers.
- Create and develop relationships with organizations outside of the school building that enriches the students educational experience and prepares all students for more meaningful post-secondary options and the workforce.

Curriculum and Instruction: 2022-2023

- Recognized as ITEEA School of Excellence.
- Named as a Future Ready School: District teams created goals and action plan designed to further advance district technology integration and infrastructure.
- NJTSS academic data teams work to identify large patterns of need relative to curriculum, skill deficits and acquisition of standard knowledge.
  - NJTSS cohort working to identify an academic universal screening instrument.
- Cohort testing analysis by central office - Start Strong and NJSLA data
- In-house PD days:
  - Opening day: Launch of NJTSS and Department goal setting
  - October: Data teams and Department Curriculum Review
  - January: Staff led Elementary and Secondary
- Updated Curriculum for Health and Physical Education - with parent opt-out option.

Curriculum and Instruction: Future Work

- Visiting neighboring districts' middle schools for plans to initiate additional practices in reading and mathematics.
- Pre-planning for curricular updates in elementary subjects including social studies and mathematics.
- Working on course development for Business, World Languages, and English Language Learners.
- Development of a PD portal with launch date this school year: https://wakelet.com/@TbirdProfessionalLearning

Achievements



MAHWAH HIGH SCHOOL SELECTED ITEEA STEM SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE



Curriculum and Instruction: 2022-2023

Mahwah High School @MahwahHS · Jan 28

Thunderbirds compete in Academic Decathlon at the NJ Regional competition at Ramapo High School. Go Tbirds! #MahwahConnects



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Miss DiRienzo @Miss_DiRienzo · Dec 19, 2022

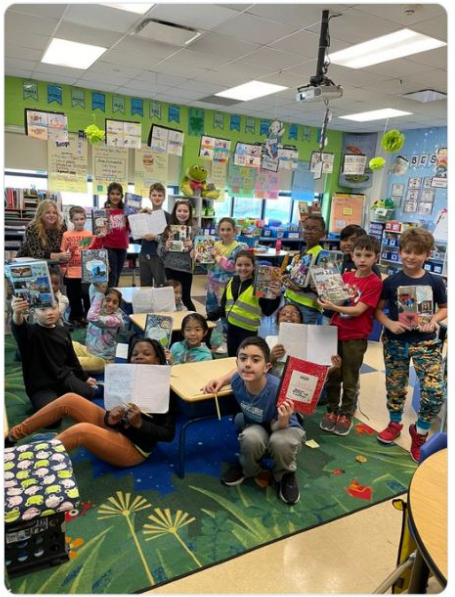
A little late, but so full of gratitude for @TalysaCole @MahwahK5Coaches for a wonderful experience for my students and I! This is an action shot from Mrs. Cole teaching my students about punctuation marks!! #mahwahconnects



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Mahwah K-5 Instructional Coa... @MahwahK5Coa... · Dec 9, 2022

So wonderful to see the progress these incredible authors have made since our work together a few weeks ago! Keep up the great work @3pacellifrogs! #WritingWorkshop #MahwahConnects @LMMahwah



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Curriculum and Instruction: 2022-2023

Gabrielle Cueto @Ms_Cueto · Oct 25, 2022

2C loves learning about our classmates different cultures! 🌍🌎🌏

In celebration of Diwali, we learned the different ways families celebrate! 🎆🪔

#MahwahConnects @LMMahwah



1 2 15

Ramapo Ridge MS @RamapoRidgeMS · Oct 14, 2022

Snapshots of Learning @ RRMS: Math, Art and Science classes

#MahwahConnects



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Social Emotional Learning

Goal Statement – Social Emotional Learning

To foster a demonstratively supportive learning environment that empowers students to be safe physically and emotionally, and allows for the healthy development of balanced and well-rounded individuals who will authentically integrate into our communities while simultaneously achieving their academic, career, and personal goals.

- Regularly evaluate Social-Emotional/Student Health and Wellness curricular offerings and experiences.
- Cultivate a learning environment that creates empathetic learners, appreciative of our diverse community and communities at large, are eager to understand the individual experiences of their peers, and recognize and value the human right of all people.
- Create programs and provide tools for parents with the resources needed to support their children both socially and emotionally.
- Build a K-12 social-emotional learning continuum, through the support of a comprehensive school counseling program and complementing SEL program, with unified language, consistent practices, and level-appropriate structures.
- Establish explicit yearly professional development opportunities for staff as it relates to social-emotional development and challenges that may occur in their classrooms in teaching a group of students with diverse backgrounds and needs.

Social-Emotional Learning: 2022-2023

- Middle school introduction of after-school sports.
- Mindfulness Cohort 3 training and classroom visits by district trainer for modeling purposes.
- SEL Coaches modeling for colleagues and leading initiatives for Mindful March.
- “Zen Den” at Joyce Kilmer and calming corners in elementary classrooms across the district.

Social-Emotional Learning: 2022-2023

- NJTSS cohort work to define learner behaviors, SEL behaviors, and factors that positively or negatively impact student learning.
- NJTSS cohort working to identify a universal screening instrument for potential future use.
- Elementary guidance pair providing whole-group and classroom instruction.

Social Emotional Learning: 2022-2023

Ms. Giovinazzo & Mrs. Dublirer @GioandDubs · Jan 28

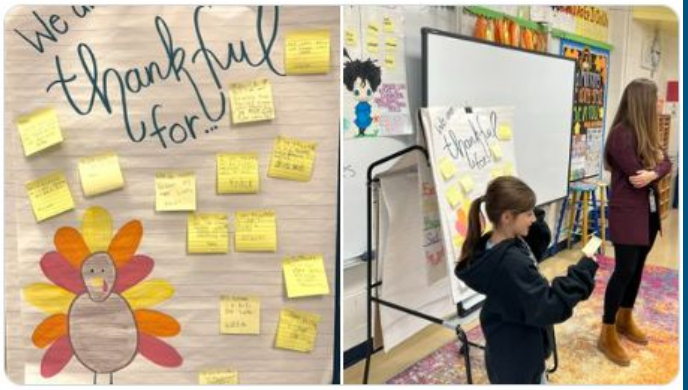
Today we recorded some mindful practices in the Zen Den. Check out our videos on our Google Classroom! @JKSMahwah @mahwahschools #mahwahconnects #mindfulpractices



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Mrs. Korcak
@Mrs_Korcak

2K is starting each morning with grateful hearts. Today @Gianna_Bologna joined us as we talked about places we are thankful for and why. #grateful #thankful #LMMahwah #Mahwahconnects @LMMahwah @mahwahschools



7:05 PM · Nov 15, 2022

2 Retweets **1** Quote Tweet **8** Likes

Community Connections

Goal Statement - Community Connections

To create enriching collaborations for our students that engage community-based experts and highlight meaningful, real-world experiences, both in and out of the classroom. To further promote the continued transparent and honest communication amongst the Mahwah Community.

- Provide real-world experiences for our high school students through internships and other mentorships that our community has to offer.
- Develop a program that supports and guides new/current families through the educational experience/student and family ambassadors in each school.
- Engage local experts with our schools to expand career education and to support the curriculum with authentic voices, insights, and experiences.
- Explore how our schools support our diverse population and identify how to serve all groups more effectively.

Community Connections: 2022-2023

- Thunderbird Partnership Program
  - Participation in **every** school building
  - 234 established partnerships | 106 visits: 2021-2022 SY; 33 visits: 2022-2023 SY thus far.
- Thunderbird Externship Program: Career Pathway Exploration and Job Shadowing - internships, externships, job shadowing.
- More opportunities for dual enrollment (e.g., FDU, Ramapo College)
  - Provide students with additional opportunities to gain college credit while enrolled at MHS.

Community Connections: 2022-2023

- Continued to connect with our ESL/ELL families/parents.
  - TalkingPoints
- Intentionally created more opportunities for students across the district to connect.
  - e.g., language buddies and pen pals between secondary and elementary programs.
- Executed equity audit process to garner stakeholders' input
  - Site visits, focus groups, and survey responses from students, staff, parents, and community members.

Community Connections: 2022-2023

George Washington School, Mahwah NJ Retweeted

Mrs. Carrelha @Carrelhasclass · Nov 15, 2022

Truly grateful to @mahwahschools for providing our families the opportunity for Adult ESL classes. The room was filled with open minds and hearts! #MahwahConnects



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JK Student Council @JKCouncil · Nov 14, 2022

CFA FOOD DRIVE

Last week for donations! Thank you for your generosity!!! @JKSMahwah @mahwahschools @JK45PE @Senora_Fitz #MahwahConnects



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Community Connections: 2022-2023







Facilities

Goal Statement - Facilities ***To create a safe, inspiring, student-centric, and progressive learning environment that will support student health and safety, while equipping our learners with the experiences and skills essential to compete in an ever-evolving world.***
• Regularly evaluate our learning spaces to assure that they are flexible enough to adjust to the changes presented by new technologies, ideas, and safety needs.
• Regularly update innovative learning spaces (inside and outside of the school building) to reflect updated curriculum, technological needs, and the diverse learning styles of all students.
• Identify outdated or under-utilized spaces (including exterior campus spaces), with an accompanying priority list, to redesign spaces with an aim to serve current and future programs and to increase productive utilization.
• Allocate funds yearly to ensure safety of all staff and students, making adjustments to building/room layout, electrical, plumbing, and HVAC to ensure that students are learning in clean/safe environments and staff feel physically comfortable in their working/learning space.

Facilities: 2022-2023

District-Wide

- Completion of JK HVAC project - 300 Wing
- MHS Grandstands - ADA access
- Imminent completion of window replacement project for Ramapo Ridge Middle School, George Washington School and Betsy Ross School.

Facilities: 2022-2023

District-Wide

- Continued work on living forecasting models for the planning and execution of infrastructure projects, such as:
  - Roofing
  - HVAC
  - Paving
- Continued reference to Spring 2020 Facility Audit to ensure that the school district is regularly addressing items identified in the audit.
- Successful bid and award of George Washington HVAC replacement project.

Facilities: 2022-2023

Mahwah High School @MahwahHS · 15h

Thunderbird stadium seating project is moving along as planned. Exciting project for our athletic programs and the community. #MahwahConnects



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Ramapo Ridge MS @RamapoRidgeMS · Oct 28, 2022

A HUGE Thank you to @_TheMSF_ , RRMS HSO, Primo Landscaping, and Stonehouse Nursery for their support and assistance in making our outdoor classroom become a reality! #MahwahConnects



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Betsy Ross School @BetsyRossMahwah · Oct 27, 2022

What a fun way to use the outdoor classroom and enjoy some sunshine today! ☀️ #MahwahConnects #BetsyRossInspires

> **Miss Conroy** @Emmamarieconroy · Oct 27, 2022
>
> We started to talk about Weather in Science this week and the students are loving it! We got to enjoy some nice weather today while writing about it with our new vocabulary:) 🍁@BetsyRossMahwah

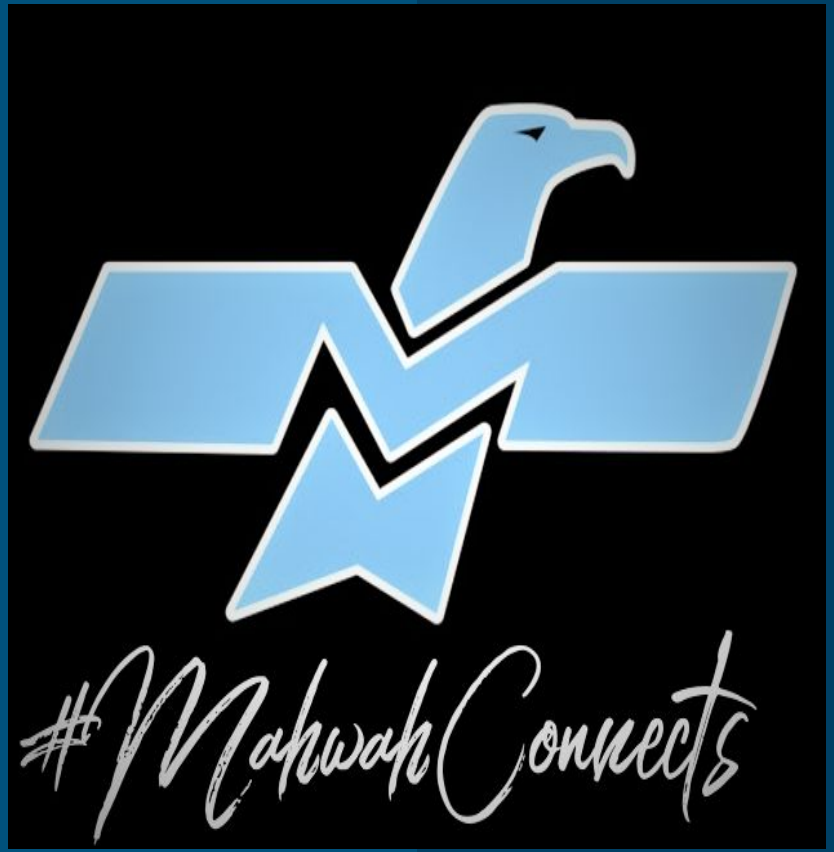


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Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Website

- Tab on our district homepage:
  - All communication posted.
  - Progress/action steps connected to each goal statement.
  - All resources connected to our school district's strategic plan and its process.


#MahwahConnects