Mahwah Schools

Strategic Plan 2020-2025 Update

Year Four: Mid-Year Progress

February 15, 2024

Mahwah Blueprint: The Vision



Our Progress…

Strategic Plan: Work from 2020-2023

Curriculum

- Course Offerings
- Externship/Internship
- College Connections - Dual Enrollment
- Relationships with Trade Schools
- Career Pathways Program - Participation Increase
- STEAM and MakerSpace K-5
- Updates to align standards and QSAC requirements
- Inclusivity Audit
- Future Ready Award, ITEEA Award, STEM school of excellence
- Professional Development: Choice based, Initiative based, State Required & Department/Content
- NJTSS: Data teams, NJTSS Manual, Tiered Supports
- I&RS Manual and updated processes

Community Connections

- Thunderbird Partnership Program - Growth
- Parent Academies
- Increased branding for the district, inclusive of published articles and formal presentations
- Enhanced Transition Experiences - (Grades 3-4, 5-6, 8-9)
- Increase in Dual Enrollment Offerings
- Mahwah Township Partnerships
- Implemented TalkingPoints - Communications Tool for ML families
- Intentional Opportunities for Student-Partnerships across the District

Strategic Plan: Work from 2020-2023

Social Emotional Learning

- Coaches and counselors
- Reinstated middle school sports
- K-5 club offerings reviewed
  - Indoor recess options and experiences for students
- Staff Training and PD days
- School-wide Experiences
- Parent SEL Brochure
- Student Support Data Teams
- School-based Threat Assessment Teams
- Parent Academies from Hackensack Meridian - Wellness Series (Stress and Coping Management, Nutrition, etc.)

Facilities

- District Audit - LAN Associates
- Forecasting for various aspects of the district - roofing, windows, HVAC, paving
- Update Fire Alarm Systems at JK and LM
- JK HVAC 300 Wing & GW School
- MHS Grandstand Replacement & Track Resurfacing
- Partial Window replacement at project for Ramapo Ridge Middle School, George Washington School and Betsy Ross School
- Applied for 5 ROD Grants
- K-3
  - Internal efficiencies and areas within the schools and classrooms found to identify dedicated “Calm Spaces” and “Break Spaces” for students.

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: 2023-2024

- Curriculum updates completed for QSAC.
- International Night: Grades 6-12
- Creation of Mandarin Chinese course for 8th grade.
- Externship and Internship Program continues to grow.
  - Student presentations and awards to partners: over 20 students
- Vertical articulation between elementary and secondary instructional programs: science, social studies, and ELA. Staff looking at scope and sequence progression, reviewing the alignment of the curriculum and resources.

Curriculum and Instruction: 2023-2024

NJTSS Updates:

- NJTSS academic data teams continue to work on bridging the gap between large areas of need and student achievement.
- Implementation of universal screeners/benchmarks LinkIt! and i-Ready.
- Continuous training on using diagnostic assessment data to inform instructional models.
- Ramapo Ridge Middle School - Restructure Math and Lit Lab structures to use small group instruction and rotations to target individual and small group needs.

Curriculum and Instruction: 2023-2024





Curriculum and Instruction: 2023-2024



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: 2023-2024

- SEL Coaches
  - Supporting school-wide activities
  - Job description
  - Created a parent brochure
  - Creating a two year cohort series for new staff interested in the training
  - Creating a teacher handbook with resources for application in the classroom
- Integrated school counselors in classrooms and as interventionists
- Student Support Data Teams
- Student attendance and chronic absenteeism interventions

Social-Emotional Learning: 2023-2024

- School-based Threat Assessment team meetings
- Behavior Intervention Teams
- International Night, Grades 6-12
- Continuation of elementary school morning meetings
    - School-wide and Classroom-based
- Planning Mindful March experiences in all schools
- Grades K-3 Calming corners added to all classrooms

Social-Emotional Learning: 2023-2024





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: 2023-2024

- District Administration - presentation (NJSBA): *Opening Doors to Community Experts: Bridging the Gap Between Content and the Real World*
- *School Administrator* Magazine Article: "Thunderbird Partnerships: From Fledgling to Flight"
- Character.org - *Promising Practices* application submitted.
- Grades 6-12 Career Pathways continue to grow the student enrollment.
- Update to district's website; format meets ADA compliance, ease of access, and additionally brands the district's programmatic successes.
- Thunderbird Partnership Program continues to grow.
  - Meeting with Dean of School of Contemporary Arts (Ramapo College)

Community Connections: 2023-2024

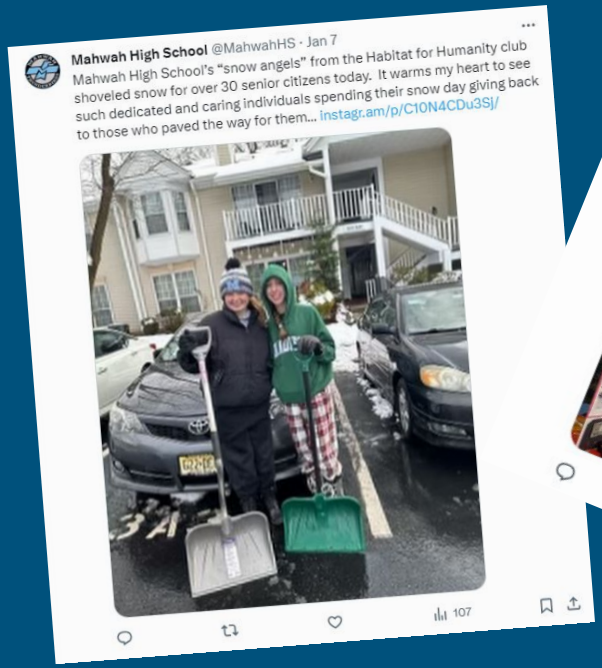
- Staff Highlights reinstated to the district.
- Inclusivity Audit presentation to the community, distilling recommendations and communicating district's next steps.
- Through music and world language programs, students across the district to support instruction and connect across the district.
- Planning Community Roundtables to elicit feedback from all stakeholders on various aspects of district's functionings.
  - Community Roundtable #1: 3/12/24 (Tuesday) - RSVP TO COME
    - 3/12/24 - 6:30 p.m. - Ramapo Ridge (Library Media Center)
- In process of engaging communication consultant to ever-improve district and community messaging and outreach efforts.

Community Connections: 2023-2024





Community Connections: 2023-2024







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: 2023-2024

- Ongoing evaluation and discussion between administrative team and Board of Education, anticipating future upgrades and additions to our school buildings.

- Continued work with Township to find areas for efficiencies and savings
  - Paving

- Work with the Transportation Ad Hoc Committee
  - Gathering busing ridership data.
  - Assess routes to ensure efficiencies.
  - Analyze township topographical dynamics to determine safe travel to schools (students who walk to school).

- Work with Board of Education's Finance and Facilities Committee to review capital reserve totals and to increase interest earnings with available funds.

Facilities: 2023-2024

- Applied for and Received 6 Regular Operating District (ROD) Grants through the State of NJ to support the following projects:
    - Partial Roof Replacement
        - George Washington Elementary School
        - Mahwah High School
    - Partial HVAC / Rooftop Unit (RTU) Replacement
        - Ramapo Ridge Middle School
        - Mahwah High School
        - Joyce Kilmer Elementary School (Gym)
    - HVAC Replacement
        - Betsy Ross Elementary School

Facilities: 2023-2024



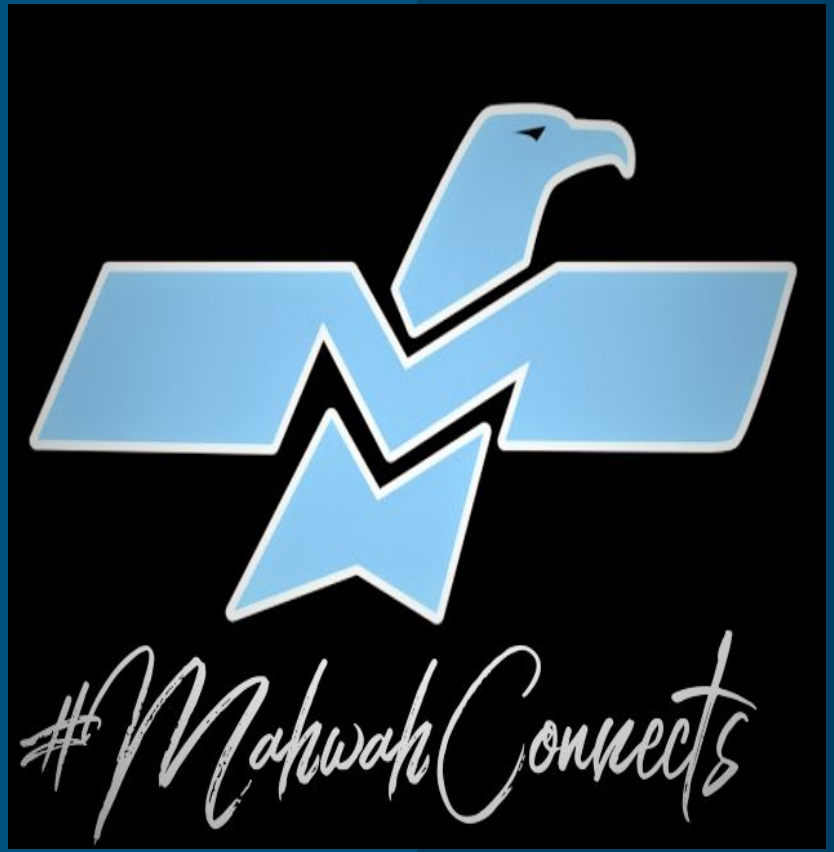




Strategic Plan 2020-2025

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

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Something very special happened today. A former @MahwahGW student came to surprise me with her very own published children's book! Last in the Box is now available on Amazon and Barnes and Noble! I'm so very proud of her! 🫶❤️#mahwahconnects @mahwahschools





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