October 2021 Strategic Plan Update

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Berlin Borough School District

FOCUS AREA: WHOLE CHILD

GOAL STATEMENT: Develop an academic focus that promotes student development and long-term success by encouraging interpersonal skills and creating opportunities that nurture creativity, wellness, self-accountability and service through instructional areas of: self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision making, healthy relationship skills, and social & civic awareness.

- Revival of Interact, a school based extension of Rotary
- Student Government supporting Veterans Day Luncheon
- The Character Education Committee is highlighting students for their positive character traits each month.
- Student of the Month and Superintendent's Awards recognize students for their academics, behaviors, and positive attitudes in school.
- Sports teams and individual players are recognized for their efforts and performance during morning announcements.

- In-Service professional development with JudyAnn McCarthy about Nurtured Heart Approach.
- Mrs. McCarthy is also working with students with anxiety about returning to school.
- The Peer-Mediaton program is beginning at this time as well.
- Professional development through inservices, faculty meetings, and weekly newsletters regarding Growth Mindset.

- Introduction of Elementary instruction of SEL.
- Professional development for core content areas to integrate SEL into the curricula, particularly for ELA and special area classes in the Middle School.
- As we revise and update our curricula the elements of digital literacy and citizenship will be put in as part of the 21st Century Skills
- The administration is working with the local Police to bring in someone from the Camden County Prosecutor's Offices that specializes in Digital and Internet Safety.

FOCUS AREA: COMMUNICATION/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

GOAL STATEMENT: Strengthen community engagement and parent support to enhance relationships between parents, families, school and community.

- All news blasts and weekly newsletters to the community are posted on the BCS Facebook page.
- All communications are sent out via the Blackboard email systems, the BCS app, and the BCS FaceBook page.
 - The BCS Facebook Page is also embedded directly on the BCS Website.
- Monday morning newsletter are sent to parents using this 3 methods as well to keep parents informed of upcoming events and important information/reminders.

- The Cultural Proficiency and Equity Stakeholder Group has developed a recruitment process to diversify our staff members.
- We plan to hold a virtual job fair on January 12, 2022.

- Open Houses were held during the summer to help with the transition back to full onsite learning.
- The Berlin Rotary and local boy scouts and girl scouts troops were invited to the BCS Middle School Open House 2021.
- Beginning in November, each Principal and the Superintendent will have weekly virtual office hours designated for the purpose of educating parents on the need for their involvement.
- The administrators will try to have some special guests during these times as well.

FOCUS AREA: STAFF SUPPORT

GOAL STATEMENT: To attract, develop and retain excellent quality staff with a focus on relevant professional development through mindfulness and cultural responsiveness and 21st century teaching strategies.

- Each Principal sent out a survey to the staff regarding professional development choices as well as needs for professional learning.
- We have reached out to set up a virtual town hall with Dr.
 Walter Greason regarding Cultural Responsiveness.
- We are also in the process of re-establishing our Student Equity Group as we continue to use multiple perspectives as part of our educational process.

- As our curriculum is updated we will continue to pilot different resources to provide the staff with the most up to date resources.
- The will also include professional development regarding Best Practices when using new materials and techniques.
- Such as the summer professional development that was offered by Dr. Eric Milou as well as the professional development for the Reveal Mathematics Series.

- As the year progresses, the administration in conjunction with the Health Office will use the Wellness Committee to implement programs that promote staff health and wellness.
- A survey was sent out to the staff about taking part in a fitness activity once a week after school with some type of culminating activity towards the end of the year.

FOCUS AREA: OPERATIONS/RESOURCES/INFRASTRUCTURE

GOAL STATEMENT: Using our Operations, Resources, and Infrastructure to enhance the learning environment for all students; ensuring safety, accessibility, health, and being eco-friendly.

- We will be reviewing the different "Green Initiatives" that we can build off of while re-establishing a "Green Committee."
- The HSA has earmarked the funds raised during the Boosterthon for Green Initiatives.

- There is an open line of communication and meetings with the local police, first responders, and emergency management personnel regarding:
- Emergency Procedures
 - Updates and revisions are currently taking place
- Police presence during emergency drills
 - With a debrief after the conclusion of the drill
- Emergency management has helped us acquire more masks (free of charge)

- At the current time, budgeting for the 2022-2023 school year is in the preliminary stages.
- We are carefully planning and budgeting using the ESSER and ARP funding to maximize the funding and to ensure anything implemented in sustainable after the grant funds are exhausted.

- Teachers collaborated at October in-service to review technology resources related to their curriculum.
- We are evaluating each program to determine effectiveness of usage as new technology that is available via new curricula series.

FOCUS AREA: PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES/CURRICULUM

GOAL STATEMENT: Over the next five years we will develop and continually enhance the curriculum, programs and activities offered at BCS to ensure that outgoing BCS students are performing at/or above grade level and are adequately prepared for their secondary education (i.e. high school or technical school).

- Each month we continue to update our curriculum in different areas.
- We also review the data published by EdReports regarding curricular-resource effectiveness and alignment with the NJSLS.
- As we make our way back to normalcy we will be using our Student Government, Student Equity Group, and other groups of students to seek their input regarding our programs and activities.

Communication for this year has begun with Eastern

- We are determining dates for vertical articulation in the

different core areas

Thank you for your continued support for the growth of the BCS students!

Next updates: January 2022 April 2022 June 2022