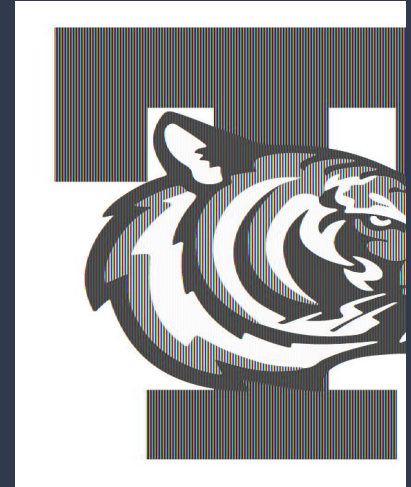


Tewksbury Township School District

Strategic Planning (2024-2029) Year 1: Mid-Year Update

Presented by: Dr. Shouffler
February 26, 2025



A Vision for our School District



Overview by

**Superintendent,
Dr. Jennifer Shouffler**

Three Goals

Goal 1 (Student Learning): To develop an environment that promotes creative and independent thinking with a focus on academic excellence and the arts; that is also adaptable to each student.

Goal 2 (Finance and Facilities): To create a financial framework so that the school district is fiscally responsible while supporting learning environments.

Goal 3 (Student Environment): To create a welcoming and supportive learning environment to foster a lifelong love of learning for all students; This includes robust connections to their school and wider community.



Goal 1- Objective 1a



1a. Create an environment of teacher excellence through effective professional development

- Create and sustain partnerships with educational experts to support best practices for teaching and learning in the area of literacy
 - Updated Reading Action Plan and 8 workshops from a Reading Coach for K-4 teachers
 - K-8 Teachers attended 10 out-of-district workshops to support Literacy
- Improve strategies for teaching in inclusion classrooms
 - Arranged ½-day March workshop for *all* teachers
 - Teachers attended out-of-district workshops on the topics of co-teaching and inclusion
 - Administrators observed co-teaching
 - Professional learning for paraprofessional
- Support teachers in effective Professional Learning Communities to improve learning
 - Several Meetings to review student achievement data
 - October 1st Presentation to staff on encouraging more effective PLCs
 - Held after-school PLC meetings
 - Teachers working on AI connections for supporting special needs
 - Purchased resources for teachers

Goal 1– Objective 1b and 1c



1b. Maintain small class sizes throughout the district

- Added Grade 1 Section
- Reviewed class-size
- Enrollment reports shared with BOE

1c. Encourage supportive parent-teacher communication

- Spoke with teachers on the importance of responding to parents within 24 hours
- Implemented Monthly Parent Newsletter from CST
- Continue the Monthly Newsletters from District, TES, and OTS
 - Added information from Grade-level teams and Departments
- Reminder Cards from TES and OTS
- Regular Use of OTS Sign, Weekly Virtual Backpack Reminder, and Facebook
- Created Grade-level and Bus Groups in Realtime
- Implemented new process to communicate information about OTS clubs/sports to parents
- Special Education Survey to Parents

Goal 1- Objective 2



Support content area and grade-level articulation to encourage consistency and coherence implementation of curriculum and pedagogical strategies between and among grades

- Articulation Meetings (Increase amount of time and improve the quality)
- Support a shared vision for teacher teams to implement a coherent and cohesive curriculum across the grades and through the grades
 - Summer Curriculum Projects completed
 - Monthly Curriculum meetings
 - Grade-level team-time meetings
 - Imbedded extended articulation meeting time during PD Days
 - Added OTS Department Articulation time
 - Added Grade-Level Articulation time
 - Articulation meetings after-school
 - Coverage for teachers to meet
 - Implemented “Power-hour” with K-4 teams and Librarian to discuss literacy and books

Goal 1- Objective 3

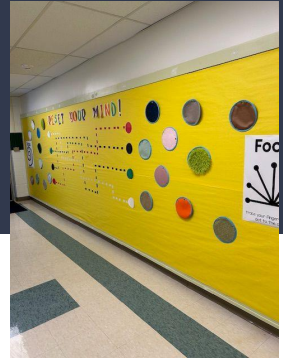


Develop robust experiential learning programs that expose students to applied skills, encourage artistic development, and civic awareness.

- Create opportunities for students to learn applied skills through programs, field trips, and assemblies
 - New Field Trip Approval Form
 - Reviewed Field Trips with BOE
 - OTS Inspiration Cafe: First Presenter Rower in the Olympics
 - TES “Great Kindness Challenge”
- Provide Field Trips, Assemblies, and partnerships that expose students to the arts
 - Student Art Shows
 - Improved displays of student artwork
 - Active OTS Art Club
 - Visiting Artists and Poet
- Offer opportunities for students to expand their civic awareness through classroom experiences and programs
 - Workshop for Grades 2-4 teachers
 - Service Learning Projects- The Pajama Project, Pennies for Patients, Food Drive
 - Fall Team-time meetings with Teachers to discuss Civics connections
 - Grade 5 *Biztown (Junior Achievement)* Field Trip

Goal 1- Objective 4

Ensure that the child study team has the necessary staffing and resources to create the best environment possible for this community of learners.



- Review staff and student data for special education programs and address areas of need
 - Collected data
 - Added Special Educator for TES and Two Sections of Special Education support at OTS
 - Added One paraeducator at TES
 - Evaluation of Program completed by Interim Supervisor
 - Presentation to BOE by supervisor
- Improve inclusion practices across the district
 - Workshop for *all* teachers
 - Out-of-district workshops on co-teaching and inclusion strategies
 - Administrators observed co-teaching
 - Professional learning for paraprofessionals
 - De-escalation Training
- Improve and expand the Community-Based Instruction Program at OTS
 - Meetings held with MD Teacher and Paraeducators to brainstorm ideas
 - Hired aides to help student participation in Sports and Clubs
 - Sold Halloween Treats and exploring the idea of a 'Coffee Cart'
 - Field Trips Out of District

Goal 1- Objective 5



Support the academic and social emotional needs of gifted students through identification and Resources to ensure that these students are learning in an environment and at a pace that encourages them, understands their unique neurological profile, and aligns with their cognitive abilities per NJ law.

- Provide teachers with professional learning and resources to support gifted education and neurodevelopmental teaching strategies
 - Resources purchased
 - Gifted and Talented Conference and workshops
 - Analysis of Student Data
- Strengthen opportunities for students seeking challenges in the area of mathematics
 - Updated Math Aspire curriculum
 - Implemented Grade 7 Math Honors
 - Updated criteria for Aspire
- Strengthen opportunities for students seeking challenges in the area of English Language Arts
 - Updated ELA Aspire curriculum
 - Planned and Implemented Art and ELA connections
 - Updated Scheduling and Staffing of ELA Aspire
 - OTS ELA and Math Aspire Teachers plan to showcase student work at an Open House
 - TES Schoolwide Enrichment Program

Goal 1- Objective 6



Develop capstone programs and extra experiences (i.e., science fairs) at every grade-level.

- Provide students in Grade K-4 with capstone experiences that demonstrate learning in various content areas, align with curriculum, and allow for opportunities to share learning with others
 - Grade K- Community Helper Day in March/April 2025 (civics connection)
 - Grade 1- Solarbration in late March 2025 (science/art connection)
 - Grade 2- Poetry Cafe in early May 2025 (writing/art connection)
 - Grade 3- Research Presentation in late March 2025 (literacy connection)
 - Grade 4- Science Fair in March 2025 (science connection)
- Provide students in Grades 5-8 with culminating experiences that demonstrate learning in various content areas, align with curriculum, and allow for opportunities to share learning with others
 - Grade 5- Rising Fifth Graders Transition with penpals, buddies, and a visit (character education)
 - Grade 6- Shark Tank Presentations (interdisciplinary)
 - Grade 7- Action Research (civics connections)
 - Grade 8- Washington DC Project and Presentation (interdisciplinary)
- Improve student experiences in the arts
 - Expanded supporting roles for students from grades 5-7 in Musical, Main Roles for grade 8
 - New OTS Theater Club
 - Art shows in the community
 - Implemented TES Art Club
 - Grade 4 Dance Artist in Residence

Goal 2- Objective 1

Create outdoor learning spaces to enrich the physical learning environment and promote student learning.

- Plan and begin to refine inner courtyard space at OTS to encourage increased learning
 - Completed summer 2024 with the help of the PTA-New planters and landscaping
 - Space is now used for: Grade 8 lunch courtyard privilege, Teacher meetings, Class Meetings
- Plan and begin to expand outdoor “Discovery Den” at TES
 - Planters and materials purchased
 - Met with PTA in September to enhance play area
 - Planting and structure completed Spring 2024.
 - Students continue to use the Discovery Den for play during recess time, to work collaboratively with classmates to build structures.
 - Will hold a Spring meeting with staff/students/parents to plan for any additions
- Research additional outdoor spaces at both schools
 - Superintendent visited other schools in September 2024
 - Proposal presented at several Referendum BOE Committee Meetings in the Fall



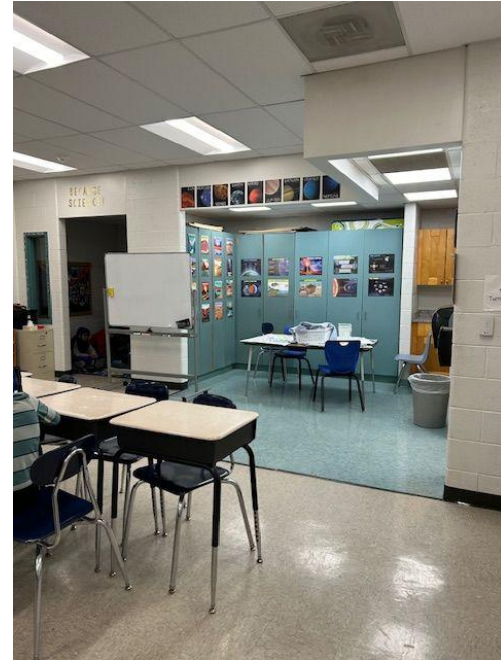
Thank you to Mr. Drew Madlinger, owner of Madlinger Exterior Design, and the Tewksbury PTA, for beautifying the outdoor courtyard at OTS. Ms. Zisk and Mr. Lovering are already enjoying an outdoor work session.



Goal 2- Objective 2

Upgrade our Art, Science, and Technology classrooms at OTS to support engaged learning and interdisciplinary connections.

- Make upgrades to OTS Art Room and Technology Room
 - OTS Kiln fixed and working
 - Meeting held with teachers, administrators, and architect in November
 - Meetings held with Referendum BOE Committee in Fall/Winter to discuss proposal
- Upgrade the 5th and 6th grade science classrooms
 - Meeting held with teachers, administrators, and architect in November
 - Meetings held with Referendum BOE Committee in Fall/Winter to discuss proposal
 - Visit to another school planned for March



Goal 2- Objectives 4

Upgrade the OTS Stage, including the structure, audio, and lighting.

- Renovate the OTS All Purpose Room
 - Reviewed cost estimates from Architect in October
 - Refined quote in November
 - Meetings with Architect and BOE Referendum Committee held on multiple times per month throughout the 2024-2025 school year



Goal 3– Objective 1

Expand enrichment and co-curricular programs to provide engagement with others, in-district and out-of-district.

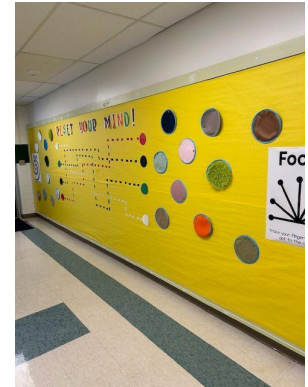


- Enhance extracurricular experiences for all students
 - Collecting data on current clubs and enrollment
 - Increased communication to families
 - Added OTS Theater Club and presented a Play in December to students and parents
 - Added Model UN, Youth Government, and Lego Club at OTS
 - OTS STEM Bridge Building competition against over schools in Hunterdon
 - Enthusiastic Reader Competition against other schools
 - Unsung Hero Award through Hunterdon County
 - OTS Spelling Bee planned for Spring
- Enhance enrichment experiences for students within our current courses and programs
 - Added Math 7 Honors Course at OTS
 - Participating in the ELA Honors Society through Aspire
 - Increased support for Grade K and 1 Aspire
 - Furthered the Schoolwide Enrichment Program at TES
 - Implemented Inspiration Cafe at OTS: First presenter was a rower at the Olympics

Goal 3– Objective 2

Expand flexible learning environments to include seating, visual aids, and upgrades to educational Technology.

- Create sensory environments at both schools
 - Completed Sensory Wall at OTS and is used by students often
 - TES' Sensory Walk is used daily
- Create flexible seating and student/staff workspaces at TES and OTS
 - Updated OTS World Language room with new desks and chairs
 - Updated Grade 7 ELA room with new desks
 - Replaced chalkboards with whiteboards at both schools
 - Purchased and will install sliding whiteboards
 - Purchased wooden easels for group learning in Kindergarten
- Improve classroom with Visual Aids (board space) and Technology at TES and OTS
 - Upgraded screencasting tool to Vivi at OTS
 - Upgrading Grade 6 Special Education classroom and others with additional whiteboards



Goal 3– Objective 3

Prioritize group and interpersonal interaction among students and teachers while reducing reliance on screens for school work/projects whenever possible.

- Meet with Teachers to discuss the need for engaging, hands-on lessons and student discourse
 - Met with teachers several times so far this year to discuss
 - Principals will meet with teachers to prioritize purchase of digital tools
 - Provided Tech-free learning periods with 'No Homework Breaks', No Social Media OTS Assembly, and reduced Social Media use via OTS challenge
- Offer Professional Learning for Teachers to support student engagement and reduce the use of technology
 - Research articles
 - Updated curriculum
 - Several teachers attended out-of-district workshops
 - In-district professional learning focused on Hands-on learning
- Observe teaching and learning and offer feedback/instructional tools on ways to increase engagement while reducing dependency on technology
 - Administrators reviewed strategies for observations
 - Areas for growth and strengths were identified and shared with teachers via observations
 - Data is being collected to identify areas for increased professional learning

Goal 3- Objective 4

Create more opportunities for community service projects and family/community



- Create opportunities for students to connect with the community through various events
 - TES service learning projects: Pajama Project, Pennies for Patients, Seeing Eye Dog donations, Food Drive
 - TES community events: Holiday Concert, Family Bingo, Grade 2 Poetry, Spring Fling, Art shows, Family Math
 - OTS projects: Week of Respect, Food Drive, Giving Tree, Hurricane Victims Fundraiser
 - OTS community events: Holiday Concert, Art shows, Specials/Aspire Showcase
 - Provide opportunities for families and community members to support our outdoor learning spaces
 - Families invited to help with the TES garden (Discovery Den)
 - OTS space completed by PTA
- To connect students with people in and outside our Tewksbury community to learn about various careers a
 - Implemented Inspiration Cafe at OTS
 - Community Helpers Kindergarten Capstone Project
 - New Grade 5 Field Trip to Biztown
 - MD Class trips
 - DC trip to Naval Academy

Goal 3– Objectives 5a



5a. Cultivate an inclusive climate where student differences are celebrated

- Educate staff and create more inclusive opportunities for Special Education students.
 - Administrators reviewed schedule and teachers' assignments
 - Observations of co-teaching classes
 - Workshops on the topics of inclusion
- Expand inclusive opportunities for special education students in clubs/sports
 - Students were provided with teacher-aides in clubs and sports
 - Exploring the possibility of adding a Unified Sports Club
- Expand character-education opportunities for OTS students through the Advisory Program, supporting kindness and belonging
 - Camp Bernie experience for Grade 6
 - New Grade 5 learning goals for students through Advisory
 - Peer Leadership connects with the Advisory program
- Expand character-education opportunities for TES students
 - September training for staff in Responsive Classrooms
 - Kindness Challenge
 - Enhanced Den Program activities to allow for increased cross-grade collaboration

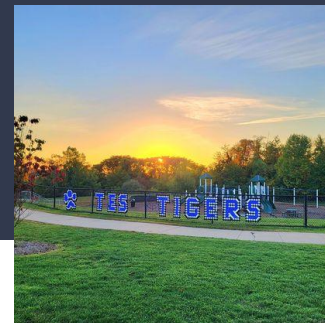
Goal 3– Objectives 5b

Expand opportunities for students to learn world languages.

- Expand student experiences with the Spanish Language
 - New pen pal program with Grade 4 students and students in Madrid
 - OTS/TES World Language Reading Buddies
 - Schoolwide Enrichment program with sessions for Grades 1-4 in additional Spanish time
 - Additional Spanish class per week for both Grade 6 and Grade 8 students
 - Music connections with Spanish songs at TES
- Create opportunities for students to explore other world language
 - Exploration within World Language classes and during Schoolwide Enrichment Program
 - Japanese language exposure at OTS

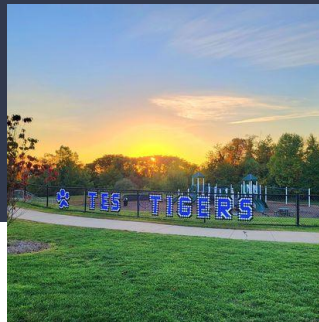
Goal 3– Objective 6

Increase collaboration within and between the schools. (i.e., students move up day for all grades)



- Enhance opportunities to support students as they transition between schools
 - Meeting held with principals and counselors
 - Planned for additional counselor visits
 - Grade 4 students will visit OTS for a full-day in Spring, including a visit to the lunch line
 - Adding a 'Sneak Peak' for rising Grade 5 students in summer 2025
 - Meetings with new HS Transition Coordinator i
 - New Google site with increased information from Voorhees HS
 - Grade 8 visited Voorhees
 - CST meetings with Voorhees CST to plan for transition
- Create opportunities for greater student engagement between TES and OTS
 - Planned Grade 4/5 teacher-meeting on transition: Pen Pals, OTS Visit by Grade 4 in Spring
 - Grade 4 students to be paired with grade 5 buddy for visit to OTS
 - Grade 5 Spanish students read to TES students
- Support students as they transition to next grade level within their school
 - Continue Kindergarten parent event, summer Playdate, and "Registered Students Day" at TES
 - Continue 'Sneak Peeks' into TES classrooms in August
 - "Newcomers" counselor meetings at TES
 - Peer Leaders meeting with 5th graders and helping parents to tour OTS

Goal 3– Objective 6 (more)



Increase collaboration within and between the schools.

- Increase teachers' articulation meeting time between grade levels to study the curriculum
 - Monthly Curriculum meetings at both schools
 - Grade-level team-time meetings
 - Imbedded extended articulation meeting time for cross-grade discussion during PD Days
 - Added OTS Department Articulation time for Math, ELA, and Science in December, February, and April during the day with sub-coverage to discuss curriculum. Meetings planned for SE and Social Studies in February and March.
 - Added Grade-Level Articulation time for grades K-2 with sub-coverage in November and December to discuss lesson planning. Grades 3 and 4 to be planned for Feb/March.
 - Articulation meetings after-school through Curriculum Meeting time
 - Coverage for teachers to meet when needed: Grade 1 team on PLC and observe demonstration lesson in January, Art teachers from both school in fall, Grade 4 and Grade 5 teachers meetings on Feb 4th and April 8th
 - Implemented "Power-hours" with K-4 teams and Librarian to discuss literacy

Thank you to
Board of Education
members, parents, staff
members, school
administrators, and
community members who
help to create this
5-year plan.

