Mahwah Schools

Strategic Plan 2020-2025 Progress

In Year Five: Work to Date

December 16, 2024

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.

Strategic Plan: Some Work Thus Far + Most Recent Accomplishments

Curriculum & Instruction

- Growth in Course Offerings
- Externship/Internship
- College Connections - Growth of Dual Enrollment Program
- Relationships with trade schools
- Career Pathways Program - Pathway Creation and Student 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
- Increased Authentic Learning experiences
- NJTSS: Data Teams, NJTSS Manual, Tiered Supports
- I&RS Manual and updated processes across the district
- Global thinking and civic opportunities: TEEEMS, poll worker, town council, diamond challenge

Curriculum and Instruction: Strategic Plan in Action





Curriculum and Instruction: Strategic Plan in Action



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.

Strategic Plan: Some Work Thus Far

Community Connections

- Thunderbird Partnership Program - Throughout K-12 Classroom Experience
- Growth of Parent Academy Offerings
- 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 our multi-lingual families
- Intentional Opportunities for Student-Partnerships across the school district

Community Connections: Most Recent Accomplishments

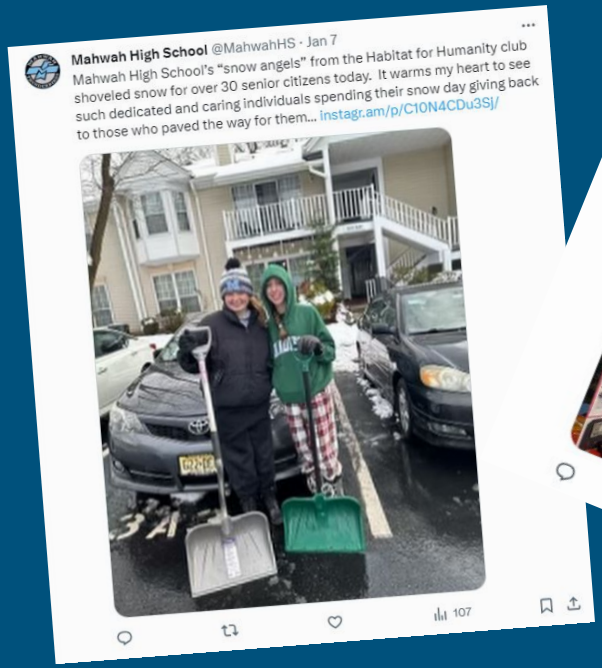
- District Administration - presentation (NJSBA): *Opening Doors to Community Experi*
  Bridging the Gap Between Content and the Real World
- *School Administrator* Magazine Article: "Thunderbird Partnerships: From Fledgling to Flight"
- Character.org - *Promising Practices Award* + District of Character Application
- District of Distinction Award Finalist - *District Administration*
- 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)
- Superintendent Roundtable Meetings

Community Connections: Strategic Plan in Action





Community Connections: Strategic Plan in Action







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.

Strategic Plan: Some Work Thus Far + Most Recent Accomplishments

Social Emotional Learning

- Creation of K-12 SEL Coach and K-3 School Counselor positions
  - Creation of Teacher Handbook with applicable resources for the classroom
- Reinstated middle school sports
- K-5 club offerings reviewed
  - Indoor recess options and experiences for students
- Staff Training and PD days
- School-wide Experiences
  - Mindful March experiences in all schools
- Creation of Parent SEL Brochure
- Student Support Data Teams + Behavior Intervention Teams
  - Address Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism interventions
- School-based Threat Assessment Teams
- Parent Academies from Hackensack Meridian - Wellness Series (Stress and Coping Management, Nutrition, etc.)

Social-Emotional Learning: Strategic Plan in Action





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.

Strategic Plan: Some Work Thus Far

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.

Facilities: Most Recent Accomplishments

- Ongoing evaluation and discussion between administrative team and Boa[illegible] 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.

- Partial Roof and HVAC Replacements - Across our Buildings

Facilities: Strategic Plan in Action



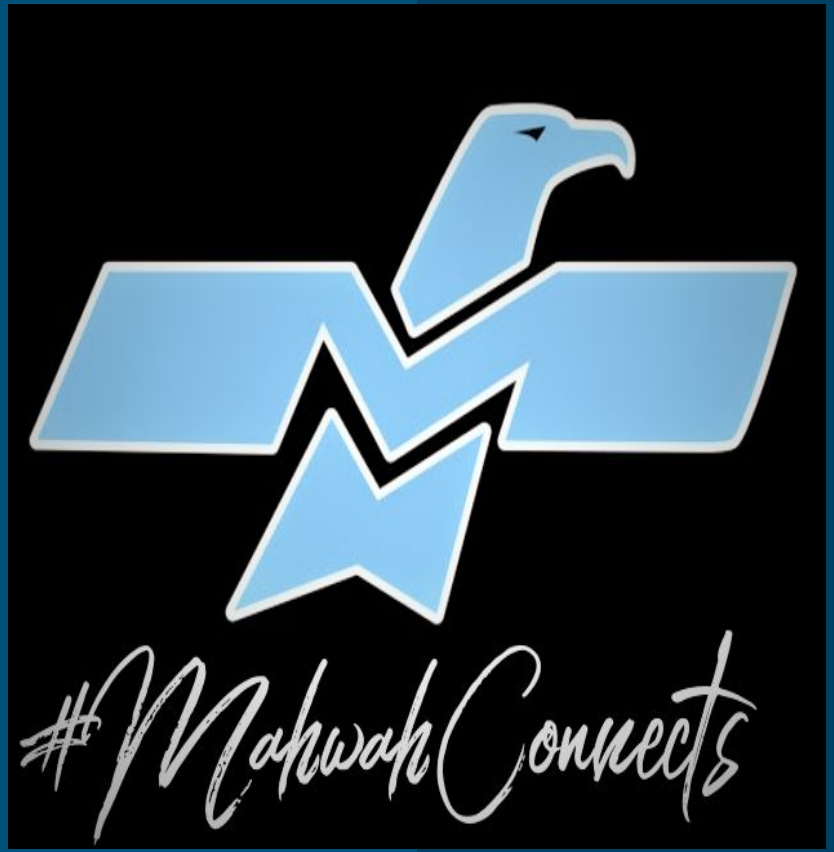




Strategic Plan 2020-2025

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