

Arcanum-Butler Local Schools District Continuous Improvement Plan

2026-2027

District Leadership Team:

John Stephens, Superintendent

Ty Cates, HS Principal

Jason Vince, MS Principal

Joni Pechie, EL Principal

Matt Huffman, Treasurer

David Baker, District Technology Coordinator

Andrea Painting, A-BCTA Rep./HS Teacher

Beth Kessler, HS Guidance Counselor

Heather Whittaker, HS Math Teacher

Sarah Murphy, HS Spanish Teacher

Roger McEldowney, HS Teacher

Ashley Matheson, EL/MS Guidance Counselor

Jacie Holman, MS Math

Kim Peltier, MS ELA

Marla Miller, MS ELA

Sarah Loxley, 3rd Grade Teacher

Courtney Warner, 1st Grade Teacher

Amanda Herzog, Title I Teacher

Jesse Warner, 3rd Grade Teacher

Cassie Bixler, 3rd Grade Teacher

Mission Statement

The Arcanum-Butler Local School District provides a caring and safe environment where students are challenged to become lifelong learners and productive citizens.

Arcanum-Butler Vision

The “Trojan Way”

The Trojan Way represents excellence and how our district and those who make up our district represent our school and community. It is the belief that Arcanum-Butler Local Schools will provide the best school experience in our county and region for students to grow and learn in preparation for life. Our students will be proud to be Trojans and represent their families and our school in the classroom and in extra-curricular performances and competitions. The Trojan Way means High Academic Expectations & Achievement, a Set of Core Values, and a High Performing Staff! It will be present in all that we do and evident in our actions and the actions of our students.

Established High Academic Expectations & Student Achievement

- ☐ 100% of students will graduate with a plan to enroll, enlist or be employed
- ☐ Consistently make 1 year's growth annually in reading and math.
- ☐ Score in the top 3 of the county on all measures of Grade Card.
- ☐ Be able to read, understand and articulate complex texts.
- ☐ Students take pride in consistently producing quality work and demonstrate continuous improvement of skills and achievement levels.
- ☐ Students demonstrate high levels of teamwork and problem solving skills.
- ☐ Students will communicate effectively with peers and faculty.

Set of Core Values

- ☐ Promote values - Integrity, Work Ethic, Attitude, Leadership, Service, Responsibility, Honesty, Perseverance, Respect, Trust, Accountability, Determination
- ☐ Value and enjoy the learning process
- ☐ Establish a culture where kids value the community and take pride in their country
- ☐ Positive social behaviors

High Performing Staff

- ☐ Passionate, Caring, Supportive
- ☐ Kid-first mentality
- ☐ Professional, Driven, Lifelong learners
- ☐ Value experiences over lessons
- ☐ Engaging, Innovative
- ☐ Effective communicators, Intentional, Prepared
- ☐ Challenge students

ARCANUM-BUTLER LOCAL SCHOOLS

Continuous Improvement Goal #1: The District Will Maintain Academic Excellence With Instruction That Will Support The Unique Educational Needs Of Every Student.

Continuous Improvement Goal #2: The district will promote pride and the traditions of Arcanum-Butler Local Schools – “The Trojan Way”.

Continuous Improvement Goal #3: The district will provide learning opportunities that prepare students to excel in a modern society.

Arcanum Elementary School

Continuous Improvement Goal #1: The district will maintain academic excellence with instruction that will support the unique educational needs of every student.

Performance Indicators:

1. 85% of third grade students will score proficient or above on the third grade ELA assessment.
2. 65% of third and fourth grade students will score accelerated or advanced on the ELA and math assessments.
3. 80% of students will be at grade level or above on the reading and math iReady assessment and all students will make one year's growth.
4. Students in 3rd-4th grade will rank among the top 3 in the county on state assessments.
5. Students identified as needing additional support will demonstrate measurable growth through progress monitoring, intervention data, RIMPs, and iReady diagnostic data.

Action Plan:

1. Collaborate across grade levels to vertically align mathematics instruction, identifying essential standards, prerequisite skills, instructional gaps, and opportunities for increased rigor.
2. Restructure support staff for small group reading/math interventions based upon student needs.
3. Continue developing and utilizing technology and intervention resources to identify students needing additional support, provide targeted interventions, monitor progress, and adjust instruction based on data.
4. Integrate multi-sensory instructional activities focusing on consistent phonics skills and phonemic awareness that will support all students' learning. (Phonics Dance, Heggerty, Connections, Secret Stories).
5. Assess all 1st grade students using the iReady Dyslexia Screener to guide interventions and support for at-risk students.
6. Ongoing professional development for teachers: Science of Reading, Gifted Enrichment, iReady, and Into Reading, Math, etc.
7. Provide dedicated time for teachers to collaborate, share instructional experiences, and engage in professional development to enhance and refine their teaching methods.

8. Update district ELA and Math data sheets for teachers to reflect on and track student progress.

Continuous Improvement Goal #2: The district will promote pride and the traditions of Arcanum-Butler Local Schools- “The Trojan Way”.

Performance Indicators:

1. All students and staff will know and model the “Trojan Way”.
2. Build the PBIS program through practice and modeling.
3. Promote academic excellence through PBIS incentives.
4. Promote character education through monthly lessons.

Action Plan:

1. Review expectations through Trojan Way Talks, videos, and discussions.
2. Continue with a building-wide challenge to encourage whole group positive behaviors.
3. Continue spirit days and activities to promote a positive culture and promote positive choices.
4. All students will receive monthly character education lessons with opportunities for students across grade levels to interact and model positive behaviors through buddy activities, reading partners, service projects, and leadership opportunities.
5. Strengthen student goal-setting and reflection by helping students understand their assessment data, identify areas for growth, and celebrate academic progress.
6. The threat assessment team will work closely with teachers to develop strategies and plans to support student needs.
7. Integrate positive behavior strategies and mindfulness activities into daily routines
8. Continue to teach, learn, and integrate citizenship and patriotism through activities involving military families and community members currently serving or who have served.
9. ParentSquare will continue to be utilized to promote positive parental communication on one platform.

Continuous Improvement Goal #3: The district will provide learning opportunities that prepare students to excel in modern society.

Performance Indicators:

1. Build positive relationships with community members and businesses.
2. Provide more parent involvement activities.
3. Continue to integrate new technology standards within the classroom and media.
4. Expose students to different careers through parent and business career presentations.
5. Provide elementary students with meaningful opportunities to participate in community outreach.

Action Plan:

1. Provide meaningful opportunities for career exploration through presentations and hands-on experiences informed by parent career survey data.
2. Collaborate with media specialists to provide students with increased technology opportunities that are aligned to grade level technology standards.
3. Provide flexible opportunities for family involvement through technology, communication, volunteering, and school activities.
4. Expose students to local businesses and careers to make real life connections.
5. Student council will coordinate monthly service opportunities across the elementary building to promote community outreach and support.
6. Utilize the Darke County Resource Guide to invite career speakers into the building/classroom.

Arcanum-Butler Middle School

Continuous Improvement Goal #1: The district will maintain academic excellence with instruction that will support the unique educational needs of every student.

Performance Indicators:

1. Arcanum-Butler Middle School will earn 7 of 10 indicators.
2. 75% of students are proficient or better.
3. 55% of students are advanced or accomplished.

Plan of Action:

1. Students will be screened and identified as at-risk using iReady Diagnostic Assessments and classroom assessments. Teachers will monitor the progress of those students and enter diagnostic data into shared data sheets.
2. Staff will use a variety of data points (Data Sheets, IReady Reports, Classroom Assessment/Progress) to identify students who need additional support (academic and behavior) and work with the student/families to develop a plan and progress monitor via the RTI process/Database.
3. Continue to focus on Math and ELA support and enrichment with at-risk students and gifted students using shared ELA and Math data sheets and the RtI Database to track student progress.
4. Students, parents, and staff will monitor and communicate behavior and academic needs/ progress each week through the use of agendas, Progress Book, email, and Parent Square.
5. Staff will collaborate in quarterly department meetings and progress monitor student growth during monthly grade level meetings.
6. Collaborate across grade levels to vertically align math curriculum to close instructional gaps using a variety of resources.
7. Math and ELA departments will continue to implement the iReady curriculum and communicate strengths and weaknesses of the curriculum with administration so that a student achievement pathway can be established.

8. Staff will work with the gifted coordinator to develop a plan which will provide intentional gifted instruction to the middle school gifted population.

Continuous Improvement Goal #2: The district will promote pride and the traditions of Arcanum-Butler Local Schools – “The Trojan Way”.

Performance Indicators:

1. Continue to recognize students for their growth/effort/achievement during each quarterly assembly.
2. Provide four events for students to serve the community and/or middle school.
3. 75% of all Butler students will earn the quarterly reward for each of the four quarters.

Plan of Action:

1. Teachers will recognize one student each quarter as a winner of the Growth Mindset Award, and all middle teachers will identify a most outstanding overall student in their content area during the end of the year awards assembly.
2. Utilize the School Resource Officer, school counselors, and prevention specialist to provide information in regards to social media use, bullying, and other pertinent issues to all students each quarter.
3. Staff will continue the mentor program which will foster positive student-teacher relationships and provide an opportunity for grade reviews, goal setting, and a victories/challenges section.
4. Staff will create and organize a student-selected club program which will aim to ensure that students are connected to the school and have a support person outside the classroom setting.
5. Staff and parents will receive information regarding strategies to address specific mental health concerns. Students in grades 6-8 will receive one hour (or one class period) of suicide awareness education as required by law.
6. Counselors will create a transparent communication guide to assist in supporting the needs of individual students. In addition, students will have access to an online student center which will communicate important information about school-wide events.
7. The Middle School will implement Parent Square in order to better streamline school and district news.

8. To promote respect, responsibility, and academic achievement, Mr. Vince and Mrs. Matheson will provide lessons centered on study skills, time management, organization, and general tips for a successful middle school experience. In addition, Mr. Vince will establish Trojan Way Thursday via the Student Center to promote the concepts outlined in the Trojan Way matrix.

Continuous Improvement Goal #3: The district will provide learning opportunities that prepare students to excel in a modern society.

Performance Indicators:

1. Each student in the middle school will participate in post-secondary activities which will focus on exposing students to college, career, and military experiences.
2. Align Ohio's technology standards with each core class at the middle school.
3. All students will engage in problem-solving activities and group collaboration throughout the school year.

Plan of Action:

1. Students will have opportunities to be introduced to post-secondary options including college visits, job shadowing, Manufacturing Day, MVCTC visits, Military Day, College Day, classroom visits, 8th-grade Reality Fair, You Science, etc...
2. Students will spend time in the classroom (special, elective, and core classes) working on mastering grade-level technology standards.
3. Every teacher will provide evidence of where problem-solving and collaboration took place in their class.
4. Staff will seek professional development opportunities centered on key components of a modern society and share information with colleagues quarterly during staff meetings.
5. Seek opportunities to inspire gifted students to build meaningful relationships and confidently tackle real-world challenges through problem solving.
6. Utilize the Darke County Resource Guide to invite career speakers into the building/classroom.

Arcanum High School

Continuous Improvement Goal #1: The District Will Maintain Academic Excellence With Instruction That Will Support The Unique Educational Needs Of Every Student.

Performance Indicators:

1. To meet the Indicator of 80% passage for all state tests and/or top 3 in the county.
2. To have 50% of students score accelerated or advanced on all state tests.
3. 60% of students score proficient or above on the Reading Complex Text ACT subscore.
4. 60% Of all Juniors score remediation free on the English and Math ACT.

Plan of Action:

1. Ensure alignment with middle school and high school teachers in regards to content taught. Collaborate across grade levels to vertically align (not just Math) curriculum to close instructional gaps using a variety of resources.
2. Use of flex period to provide teachers with opportunities to tutor groups of students specifically in Math. Students peer tutoring during flex as well.
3. Continue to utilize ALEKS, a Math program to help with extra practice that aligns with the state tests.
4. Establish grade level meetings to provide intervention and assistance for struggling students within their grade level (RTI) and add a mentor/check in person to every student that we can find out during their Flex.
5. Continue to provide ACT Boot Camp in the fall and in the spring and offer incentives for attendance. Include the teaching of Desmos in Algebra II.
6. i-Ready will be utilized by the 9th grade teachers in English.
7. Intentional time and grouping to have staff collaborate more often with each other to gain ideas to improve instruction.

8. Establish proper note taking skills during their freshman school year from the high school staff.
9. Establish guidelines of how to use Artificial Intelligence properly and improperly and educate the high school students and staff.
10. Give teachers more time to collaborate with each other to take some of their best practices to become more creative in their approach.

Continuous Improvement Goal #2: The district will promote pride and the traditions of Arcanum-Butler Local Schools – “The Trojan Way”.

Performance Indicators:

1. Continue to develop and improve current community projects – Serve Arcanum, Veterans Day Assembly, Christmas Luncheon, ~~Pop tab drive~~ and Canned Food Drive.
2. Continue the implementation of the PBIS program using the promotion of positive achievements to demonstrate the expectations of our students and an attempt to remedy challenging behaviors.
3. Develop a program to break down silos with students and staff. Student to student. Staff to staff and staff to student.

Plan of Action:

1. Utilize an application process for Serve Arcanum in order to serve those most in need.
2. Host the Christmas Luncheon utilizing all three school buildings
3. Collect over 4,000 items for local food pantries.
4. Students in grades 9-12 will receive one hour (or one class period) of suicide awareness education as required by law.
5. The District will continue to use Parent Square as the single platform for the school year.
6. Our leadership class works with our elementary teachers to help students and promote the Trojan Way. We are all Trojans!
7. Provide transition meetings to get to know our incoming students better. Establish a group to help new students as they enroll at Arcanum

8. A quarterly gathering and possibly moving to monthly to get to know each other better students and staff with intentional grouping.

9. Award students for Student of the Month and Winning Wednesday for demonstrating Trojan Way behaviors and core values.

Continuous Improvement Goal #3: The district will provide learning opportunities that prepare students to excel in a modern society.

Performance Indicators:

1. Graduate 100% of students.
2. All students will graduate having visited at least two colleges and participated in at least one internship/job shadow opportunity.
3. Students will create a student success/career plan that assists students in the process to enroll, enlist, or employ in their Junior/Senior Flex.
4. To develop more leadership skills in real-life problem solving situations which will help them excel in modern society.
5. Seniors will participate in a career fair every year with local businesses. They will prepare resumes and participate in mock interviews.

Plan of Action:

1. Implement a check-in process for at-risk students between the student, student's parents, counselor, flex teacher, and principal.
2. Flex teachers will organize a college/career trip for grade levels 9, 10, 11.
3. Senior flex teachers will work with Mrs. Kessler and Mrs. Brandon to set up job shadow and/or internship opportunities.
4. Sophomore planning meetings will be held with parents, students, Mrs. Kessler, and Mr. Cates during the months of November, December, and January.
5. All freshmen as well as the leadership class will gain Industry Recognized Credentials in leadership during the school year and we are currently exploring more opportunities to get more

of the credentials with yellow and green belts with the goal of reaching 12 points by the time they graduate to gain an industrial credential.

6. We will continue to give all the juniors in the building yellow belt training.

7. Be intentional with YouScience results with sophomores to set up future job shadows/internships that match their aptitude and interest results with designated staff.

8. Create extra opportunities to develop leadership skills, including the addition of resilience and problem solving skills as well during flex, leadership class and Real Life Wednesdays.

9. Utilize the Darke County Resource Guide to invite career speakers into the building/classroom.