

Southern Lehigh School District

Strategic Plan Report

To: School Board Members

From: Leah Christman, Assistant Superintendent

Date: March 28, 2011

Academic Proficiency:

- AP – 1 – PSSA testing is in progress at all levels. Reports indicate everything is going well and that students have demonstrated a positive attitude and hard work so far in the testing cycle.
- AP-1, AP-2, AP-3 - The Homework Club continues at the Intermediate School, with new students referred through teachers. Again, students with pattern or habit of incomplete homework such that their academic performance was suffering were candidates for referral to the program. MS and HS NJHS and NHS students have been helpful tutors in this after school effort.
- AP-1, AP-3 –IS Grade level data meetings will pick up again after PSSA testing. Language Arts teachers are conducting data and scoring meetings to complete scoring of the third common writing assessment of the year.
- AP-2 – HS students are planning a bake sale to benefit Japan and help those in need. Our Japanese exchange students will be broadcasting a message on WSOL to further educate our student body on the tragedy and how it impacted his family members. This will kick off the bake sale during the week of March 28. Students have also solicited donations from local food stores and have raised close to \$500 so far. We are hoping to make this a school wide event.
- AP-2- Middle School has held a Sprit Day and March Dance this month.
- AP-2 - On March 22 HS students attended an assembly on depression and suicide. Jim Tkach, spoke to the students about the tragic loss of his son and how his organization has worked to raise awareness and fund help for those in need. Student Council arranged the assembly and will also be holding a dance to benefit the BoTkach Memorial Foundation. The dance will be held on April 9 at the HS and all proceeds will go to the foundation. This was a school wide event and we have received some positive feedback from students in addition to having some of our students come forward to ask for help because they are experiencing their own battle with depression.
- AP-2/HQT-2/3/IC-4- Liberty Bell held its annual spring play produced by Mr. Markley. This year the third grade presented *Little Red Riding Hood*. Over 50 3rd grade students participated in the play.
- AP-3, AP-6, AP-8- Four teachers at SLIS are piloting use of Spelling City as a technology support for spelling instruction
- AP-3 Students enrolled in the HS Sociology course completed a joint project with Liberty High School students on culture. Students at each school studied the culture of the other school and compared similarities and differences. Students were grateful for the opportunity to visit another school and shadow a student in their classes.
- AP-3/HQT-1/2/3- Liberty Bell's SWPBS Team will be attending a training at CLIU 21 on Friday, April 1st. The focus of the training will be on Tier II and III interventions regarding the SWPBS Program.
- AP-3/8/HQT-3- Liberty Bell will be holding its annual Spanish Immersion sign-ups on Wednesday, March 30th, at 7:30 A.M.
- AP-3- LCTI CAP discussions are underway to revise the program model
- AP-3/6 - 300 additional SMI licenses were added to the Middle School for the purpose of assessing all Middle School students. The testing process began this week.
- AP-6 – Lower Milford -Kindergarten classes visit the technology lab weekly and using technology such as iPods, Starfall, PBS Kids, Discovery Kids and Compass Learning.
- AP-6 I pads are being fully integrated into Hopewell's classroom as a means of measuring their effectiveness in a pilot. A great deal of feedback was provided and I pads were ordered for the other two elementary buildings. Students are actively engaged in creating curriculum based projects using this emerging technology. Hopewell has started a Technology Wiki/Blog that

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features Apps that teachers and students are recommending. Check it out at <http://wiki.slsd.org/groups/technologyadventuresathopewellelementary/>

- AP-7 – High School is currently working with a college counselor to possibly offer a program for sophomore parents this spring; Counselors will be providing juniors with a College Admission Process handout when they meet with them during the course selection process. Counselors have made some changes and updates to the form; Most 10th grade students have completed their job shadowing experiences for the graduation project by March 18. Students have reported that they really enjoyed their experiences. A meeting was held to discuss requirements and timelines and adjustments that may need to be made based upon student/parent feedback. Teachers are compiling a list of volunteers who have graciously allowed our students to shadow. Thank you notes will be sent by the students to the volunteer with whom they worked.

Improved Communications:

- IC-1- The HS and MS have been working on setting up the course selection process in Sapphire. HS students started on March 21 to input their selections into Sapphire. The MS has mass enrolled students and 8th graders are completing their course selection in the system.
- IC-1- Lower Milford is using a "Pouncer's Place" Wiki for the LM community to celebrate our students' positive behavior program and is using our wiki for a student learning-support team to communicate and collaborate.
- IC-1- High School students started on March 21 to input their course selections into Sapphire
- IC-1/3- A Google group was created for each sub group the Strategic Planning Mid Point process. This will allow for an asynchronous environment for collaboration. This will be open to the community to read so as to show transparency during the planning process.
- IC-1 and AP-7- HS Counselors will be sharing Naviance information with students during the course selection process. Students will be given login information and complete a college search. Counselors will communicate with parents via Connect Ed when this will be starting.
- IC-4 – Strategic Plan Mid-year review committee had its kick off meeting. All documents are posted on the website for community review.

Highly Qualified Staff:

- HQT – 1 – The administrators on the teacher observation committee met to hear a presentation on the iObservation system that manages the data for a teacher observation program.
- HQT-1:1 Middle School Professional Staff participated in Virtual World Best Practices; Keystone Exam workshop; Tech Wizards learning workshop; Write traits workshop; Music Conference at PSU; Science text selection process.; Read 180 workshop; Gifted Development meeting/workshop; PMEA Band/Orchestra Festival and TV User group Conference
- HQT-1/ AP 6- Technology Facilitators were trained by the IU on the use of Safari Montage, a video streaming site.
- HQT-1- The role of the technology facilitator at the k-6 level continues to change and be defined. We continue to move away from the past practices of the old computer lab instructional assistant model to a true facilitator of technology. Rubrics are being developed to help define the new role and clarify expectations.
- HQT-4 - Ongoing meetings with HS subject area leaders and teachers regarding midterm exam data are occurring. Courses with the highest rates of failures have been identified and discussions on instruction, assessments, study guides, review and midterm procedures are taking place.
- HQT-5- District Administrators attended Sapphire training and i-Observation training