

Abington Middle School School Improvement Plan 2017-2018



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**Frolio Middle School/Woodsdale School
Combined School Council Members**

Matthew J. MacCurtain	Principal/Co-Chair	
David Summergrad	Principal/Co-Chair	
Taren Whitman	Teacher	Term ends September 2018
Andrea Doyle	Teacher	Term ends September 2017
Anna Litzenberger	Parent	Term ends September 2018
Hina Correa	Parent	Term ends September 2017
Pam Kalen	Teacher/Secretary	Term ends September 2017
Timothy Hill	Teacher	Term ends September 2018
Susan Tirrell	Parent	Term ends September 2017
Elizabeth Stark	Parent	Term ends September 2018
Kate Repice	Community Representative	Term ends September 2017

Abington Public Schools

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Abington Public Schools is to provide all students with relevant, challenging educational experiences to prepare them to be engaged, responsible citizens and members of the global community.

Guiding Principles:

We believe in...

- making decisions in the best interests of students.
- supporting all students in achieving success.
- fostering the physical, intellectual, technological, social, emotional, and artistic development of our students.
- creating a safe, tolerant, supportive, organized, and equitable learning environment.
- providing challenging educational experiences that build character.
- developing self discipline and personal responsibility.
- promoting creativity, problem solving, effective communication, and critical thinking skills.
- cultivating the educational partnership among home, school, and community.
- nurturing a culture of collaboration, collegiality, and mutual respect.
- encouraging staff initiative and innovation.
- implementing professional development that is essential for effective instruction and improved student learning.
- reviewing and updating curriculum, instruction, and assessment in a regular cycle.
- recognizing that effective and appropriate technology is essential for teaching and learning.
- inspiring all students to become life-long learners.

Summary of 2016-2017 Woodsdale School Improvement Plan Goals

Goal #1-Improve student achievement through rigorous and relevant curriculum, instruction & assessment

- *RTI* is ongoing; we revisited it at the mid-point of the year to revise plans as necessary
- *Case Studies* at CPT – “moving the needle” – we looked at randomly selected individual scores in grade 5 to see what kind of supports we have put in place
- *After School Tutoring including* Math Boost, ELA, Math & Science MCAS Groups & After School Homework Centers
- *Teacher Rounds* – took place in grades 5 & 6; teachers in grade 5 used this to deepen their understanding of the three ELA Pilots; grade 6 looked at the use of technology, and classroom engagement
- *Text Based Seminar* at Faculty Meetings – *text rendering* – focused on working with *anxious and oppositional children*
- *Staff Book Groups* – each teacher was given a book among 5 titles, and we have shared in “book groups” at our faculty meetings

Goal #2-Integrate the use of technology to build 21st century skills

- Additional *mobile laptop cart* was purchased, providing a true classroom based 1:1 computing opportunity – both laptop carts have been receiving heavy use – if you provide it, they will come!
- *SAMR Model, APGAR, Tech 20* to model thinking about technology, provide a self-assessment tool to measure growth and provide demonstrations at faculty meetings
- *Coding Hour ,Computer Club & Coding* - Woodsdale students participated in the national hour of coding and participated in MIT’s World Wide *Scratch* day
- *Professional Development* sessions, led by Mrs. Johnson, to start the year were very effective (use of SWAY for example!)

Goal #3-Provide opportunities to teach and reinforce citizenship and build on existing community support

- Monthly **Community Meetings** with each grade to reinforce positive behavior and to review the Code of Responsibility

- **Code of Responsibility** – is featured in all discussions with students about our behavior expectations
- **Office Referrals** – there are a low number of incidents; mostly minor – averaging less than one per day
- **Social Worker** (Lindsay Newton) – anti-bullying lessons in all classrooms
- **Robust Clubs** The Anti-Bullying Club, the Care Center Club, the *new* Environmental Safety Club, the *A Team* (Announcement Team), and the Student Council, all provide opportunities for student involvement and all foster student leadership. (Note: It would be great to find some grant money or other funding so that the leaders of these clubs could be compensated.
- **After School Program** – wide offerings, held for **3** sessions!
 - Including: Beginning Drumming, Computer Coding, Strategy Board Games, Coloring and Crafts, Art, Boot Camp, Homework Center, Wellness Team, and more!
- Guest Assembly: **Jesse Chris** (Jesse came to perform for us thanks to the Jeff Coombs Memorial Foundation). This budding country star spoke and sang to the entire school about her **Choose Kindness** campaign
- Weekly **Bus Rides** – I rode the buses to learn more about the town and to support the safety and appropriate behavior on the buses

Goal 4a: Maintain school facilities that are safe, attractive and functional

- **Repairs** have been done as needed, and there is continuous vigilance to maintain the Woodsdale building
- **Fixed some door locksets** and **speakers** to increase security (after our lockdown drill)
- Suggestion of **future projects** at Woodsdale: a vestibule to save heat in front lobby, add an adjustable basketball hoop for lower grades (with a donation from the Coombs Foundation), improve the “island” in the parking lot with better grading and some plantings, and illuminate the flag pole at the front of the school.
- Keeping staff apprised of the **progress of the new building**; regular meetings with Mr. MacCurtain about the building, the schedule, and more
- Planning for packing with reminders to “**cull** as you go”
- Having a **tour** of the new building in March
- **Alleviating** anxiety about for next year by anticipating the upcoming changes
- **Meeting monthly** with the Frolio School Council to consider the many needs for a smooth transition.

Summary of 2016-2017 Frolio Middle School Improvement Plan Goals

Goal #1-Improve student performance through enhancements to curriculum, instruction and assessment.

- Daily use of laptop cart in classes throughout the building
- Teachers working with technology liaison to implement Plickers and Kahoots into instruction, as well as sharing strategies and ideas for integrating technology into daily lesson planning.
- Character Ed Program based on growth mindset—done on early release days
- Baseline SAMR established at initial faculty meeting
- Multiple faculty meetings dedicated to providing strategies for moving on continuum
- Instructional round focused on technology integration/staff sharing ideas with one another and providing feedback
- Tech Liason was available one period per six day cycle over one trimester to work one on one with teachers to help implement and support new technology into instruction

Goal #2-Use student performance data to make informed decisions about curriculum, instruction and assessment

- Faculty meetings, instructional rounds & CPT meetings focused on formative assessment strategies
- Instructional rounds-part focus on formative assessment in the classroom. Teachers provided feedback to one another
- Department data meetings held to review MCAS data by department with follow up data collection and meetings during Department CPT times
- Progress of individuals and groups monitored during CPT
- High level of preparation for Next Generation MCAS testing, including online assessments

Goal #3-Maintain and initiate programs which foster a safe school environment that is substance-free, tolerant, respectful and conducive to education

- SWPBIS positive behavior system monitored in preparation for development of a new 5-8 system
- SOS program has run in health classes throughout school year—follow up done by school psychologist for students who were looking for additional information/needed more support
- Partnership with Compass Program through North River Collaborative to support social emotional needs.
- Monthly Green wave ceremonies held recognizing good character and random acts of kindness
- Student council has run events throughout the year (fundraisers (ghoul grams, candy canes, valentines, Pennies for patients, basketball tournament, volleyball tournament), spirit weeks, assisted with Veteran’s Day assembly, assist with Honor Roll assembly, etc.)
- Peer Leaders-taken part in several community service activities both individually and with the Frolio community (Jeff Coombs memorial race water stop
- School Resource Officers worked with the History Department to implement lessons focusing on tolerance

Goal #4-Utilize a variety of modes of communication to increase the level of parent/guardian involvement

- Constant contact
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter)
- Monthly newsletter
- Coffee with the principal-monthly
- Parent portal open and accessible to students and parents.
- Teacher websites

Abington Middle School

School Improvement Goals for 2017-2018

Goal 1	Increase student achievement through enhancements to Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
Goal 2	Create a positive school climate, inclusive of grades 5-8, that builds on existing strengths, and encourages academic, social and emotional growth
Goal 3	Integrate the use of technology to build 21 st Century Skills into teaching and learning.
Goal 4	Provide home/school communication opportunities that provide relative news, information and curricular support.

Abington Middle School Improvement Goal #1

Goal #1	Increase student achievement through enhancements to Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
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Activity and/or Professional Development	Person(s) Responsible	Indicator of Accomplishment	Expected Completion Date
1. Meet as Data Teams to analyze local, common and statewide assessments and develop grade level and school wide student learning goals, priorities and areas for ongoing focus. Suggest changes to curriculum, instruction and assessment.	Principal Assistant Principal Department Heads Elementary Curriculum Director Instructional Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data teams meet to analyze initial statewide and local common assessment data and develop focus areas • Adjustments to curriculum, instruction, and/or assessment are planned and executed • Additional meetings held to monitor progress 	June 2018
2. Update, Identify and Implement Common Assessments for academic subjects (ELA, Math, Science, SS)	Principal Assistant Principal Department Heads Elementary Curriculum Director Instructional Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing Assessments are identified • Additional needed assessments are developed or identified • Data teams meet to analyze results 	June 2018
3. Develop/Implement RTI model for grades 5-8	Principal Assistant Principal Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine existing 5-6 and 7-8 models for implementation 	June 2018

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine if blending models is necessary • Implement RTI groupings based on assessment data and teacher recommendation 	
4. Investigate the implementation of heterogeneous grouping in all grade 8 classes	Principal Assistant Principal Department Heads Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form a heterogeneous grouping professional learning community • Make a grouping recommendation for implementation during the 2018-2019 school year 	June 2018
5. Continue to create, update and publish curriculum maps aligned with Massachusetts Common Core State Standards	Principal Assistant Principal Department Heads Elementary Curriculum Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present existing updated curriculum maps at September faculty meeting • Use APS Curriculum Review and Update Plan to identify additional curriculum mapping needed • Use curriculum maps to track progress during common planning and/or faculty meetings 	June 2018
6. Implement a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) program in grades 5-8	Principal Assistant Principal Department Heads Elementary Curriculum Director Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a school wide schedule that includes STEAM classes for grades 5-8 • Begin to develop STEAM curriculum, units and lesson plans and assessments 	September, 2017

Abington Middle School Improvement Goal #2

Goal #2	Integrate the use of technology to build 21st Century Skills into teaching and learning.
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Activity and/or Professional Development	Person(s) Responsible	Indicator of Accomplishment	Expected Completion Date
1. Provide for student leadership opportunities at all grade levels	Principal Assistant Principal Instructional Staff Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Leadership Opportunities are offered through activities such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Daily announcement team ○ Participation in weekly newsletters ○ Care Center ○ Student Council ○ Peer Leaders 	June 2018
2. Blend and strengthen existing grade 5-8 student academic and behavioral incentive programs	Principal Assistant Principal Instructional Staff Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blend Coins for Character (5-6) and Greenwave (7-8) programs • Adjust existing classroom management programs/SWPBIS to be inclusive of grades 5-8 	June 2018
3. Implement a grade 5-8 Student Council	Principal Assistant Principal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine existing processes for implementation of grades 5-6 and grades 7-8 student councils 	November, 2017

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop single 5-8 student council 	
4. Work towards the development of Middle School Interscholastic Sports	Principal Assistant Principal Athletic Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Abington Athletic Director to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Determine a timeline for the establishment of an MIAA middle school sports program 	June 2018

Abington Middle School Improvement Goal #3

Goal #3	Integrate the use of technology to build 21 st Century Skills into teaching and learning.
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Activity and/or Professional Development	Person(s) Responsible	Indicator of Accomplishment	Expected Completion Date
1. Work towards implementation of Massachusetts Technology Literacy Standards for grades 5-8	Principal Assistant Principal Department Heads Elementary Curriculum Director Instructional Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify Technology Literacy standards for direct instruction through Technology Literacy Classes • Identify Technology Literacy Standards for inclusion in other curricula • Create a process and timeline for writing Technology Literacy • Begin to create Technology Literacy curriculum guides that reflect a comprehensive technology literacy/computer science curriculum in grades 5-8 based on the Massachusetts Technology Literacy Standards • Begin to write Technology Literacy Curriculum Guides 	September, 2017
3. Improve upon staff use of technology to enhance and transform teaching and learning by using the SAMR model	Principal Assistant Principal Department Heads Elementary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish baseline SAMR model levels for staff members • Provide periodic professional development 	June, 2018

	Curriculum Director Instructional Staff Guidance Secretaries	targeted at Augmentation, Modification and Redefinition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities at faculty meetings and common planning times for teachers to share technology integration experiences 	
4. Increase opportunities for students to interact with technology on a 1:1 basis	Principal Assistant Principal Instructional Staff Technology Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify areas in both instruction and assessment for 1:1 computing opportunities • Provide time for the Technology Liaison to work directly with both individual staff and teacher teams • Work with the Technology Committee towards 1:1 implementation 	June, 2018

Abington Middle School Improvement Goal #4

Goal #4 Family and Community Engagement	Provide home/school communication opportunities that provides relative news, information and curricular support.
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Activity and/or Professional Development	Person(s) Responsible	Indicator of Accomplishment	Expected Completion Date
1. Encourage and foster community partnerships that benefit the Abington Middle School community	Principal Assistant Principal Instructional Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community partnerships are identified • Partnership activities and events are held 	June, 2018
2. Clearly and broadly communicate school curricular activities and home supports	Principal Assistant Principal Secretaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievements and events are communicated through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Abington Public Schools Website ○ Weekly Mail Day ○ Weekly Email Newsletter ○ Constant Contact Emails ○ Paper Mailings ○ Local Cable ○ Social Media 	June 2018
3. Create and publish a weekly school electronic newsletter	Principal Assistant Principal Secretaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newsletter is published weekly 	June 2018

<p>4. Promote use of X2 Parent Portal among both parents and students</p>	<p>Principal Assistant Principal Guidance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portal instructions and information are sent home with students in grades 7&8 • Meet with students and encourage student participation in checking the portal 	<p>June 2018</p>
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