

**John F. Kennedy School Improvement Plan
2009-2010**

Goal: 1. To nurture a school culture that embraces constant learning and systematically examine our instruction and assessment practices to ensure optional student learning.

Objective: A. To continue to expand differentiated learning experiences and encourage data driven instruction

Action Steps

1. Continue the process of recruiting, assigning, training, and utilizing volunteers in order to enhance teachers' abilities to provide differentiated learning experiences.
2. Continue the *Author in Residence Program* at all grade levels with an emphasis on cultural diversity. Encourage teachers to "revisit" often the authors' objectives/message with the students.
3. Create additional opportunities for the use of adult and high school volunteers in school enrichment programs, particularly focusing on after school opportunities for high school volunteers. Investigate and complete applications for grant funding for after school programming through the Wellness program.
4. Continue the use of alternative challenges and exhibitions (essays, Continental Math, geography bee, art, music, literature, physical, oratories, spelling bee) to provide multiple and varied opportunities for students to excel. Encourage attendance of parents and community members. This year, emphasize Public Speaking as well.
5. Continue to investigate and implement the initial stages of the Response to Intervention Model, with specific emphasis on direction and support provided to the teachers through the Instructional Support Team. Implement the use of the necessary RTI forms in the Instructional Support Team. Utilize Title One tutors to offer tier two support (as a part of the RTI model). Add a 30 minute intervention block this year at each grade level to allow support specific support to be provided (no new content). Continue to educate staff re: need for data driven decision making and thoughtful experimentation based on research.
6. Begin a professional learning community with interested teachers which focuses on backward design/understanding by design with the ultimate goal to increase students' ability to apply and transfer understanding of material.
7. Focus professional discussion and action plans on continuous improvements to the writing program.
8. Continue the Word of the Week program for the entire school; add a math facts question each week for all grade levels.

Indicators of Accomplishment:

1. New chairs of Volunteer Program will be oriented. Book Club parent volunteers and any volunteers involved in academic programs will be trained by the Reading Specialist or Math Specialist.
2. *Author in Residence Program* will book authors with emphasis on cultural diversity.
3. Growth of enrichment school programs, including additional physically active programs. Encourage the investigation of an "Entrepreneurs Club" as a part of the One Hen CAPE grant. Grant submitted for funding for after school programming through the Wellness Coordinator.
4. Expansion of alternative challenges and exhibitions to include **all learners**; specific emphasis will be placed on public speaking this year.
5. Staff participation in development and evaluation of new scheduling options, data collection and evaluation and thoughtful experimentation. Tier Two support provided by Title One tutor with additional training provided to teachers re: greater degrees of differentiation.
6. Professional Learning Communities will focus on developing and sharing units produced through an "Understanding by Design" process.
7. Staff meeting discussions will focus on continued improvement of the writing program across all grade levels with monthly samples shared and discussed within grade level groups.
8. Principal will continue "Word of the Week program" and add an additional "Math Facts" component weekly.

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Goal: 1. To nurture a school culture that embraces constant learning and systematically examine our instruction and assessment practices to ensure optional student learning.

Objective B: To expand the integration of technology to support teaching and learning

Action Steps

1. Use the school's web site and e-mail communication systems to educate parents about current school events and provide links to relevant web sites. Encourage and support teachers in developing their own websites.
2. Utilize the MCAS preparation (Study Island) and reporting programs (Data Warehouse) to their maximum potential.
3. Increase technology programming for special needs and ELL students.
4. Implement, as much as possible, a paperless communication by utilizing email. Train CAPT volunteers to scan paper documents so that all flyers received from the community can be communicated to parents via the e-mail system.

Indicators of Accomplishment:

1. Material is displayed on the web site.
2. MCAS analyses reviewed and disseminated to teachers early enough in the year to impact instruction. Study Island utilized throughout the year by Grades 2 through 5 with at least two training programs provided to teachers in order to best utilize data and reporting mechanisms for Study Island.
3. Addition of at least one new technology program for special needs and ELL students.
4. Email used with at least 90% of JFK families for all communications.

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Goal 2: To secure resources to support programs for the Canton Public Schools

Objective: To enlist the support of the community at large to solidify and to integrate the work of Canton-based organizations such as CAPE into the fabric of the school.

Action Steps

1. Have previous CAPE grant recipient and a CAPE member train new hires on effective CAPE application procedures - once yearly.
2. Encourage CAPE grant recipients to share learning/programs with the staff and the press.
3. Increase involvement of the community at large in the school through programs such as Read-Aloud, Veteran's Day, and our Volunteer program. Specific emphasis will be placed on community connections and "giving back" with the lower grade level students.
4. Continue to co-ordinate with CAPT to ensure expenditure of funds complements curriculum and school programs.
5. Solicit community members to present career and community awareness programs. Bring in Toastmasters this year to encourage greater comfort level of students with public speaking.
6. Conduct the Cultural Connections Awareness Day again moving the date to the end of the school year.

Indicators of Accomplishment:

1. CAPE grant application training session conducted by previous CAPE grant recipients and a CAPE member.
2. Dissemination of information at faculty meeting and newspaper article will be published.
3. Marketing campaign to reach people not aware of opportunities within schools
4. Teacher questionnaire regarding programming administered by CAPT.
5. Two Community awareness programs held with Toastmasters included this year.
6. Cultural Connections Day planning to occur in School Council in coordination with School Psychologist. Two months of team building slots will be devoted to the preparation of the students to act as "teachers".

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Goal 3: To educate faculty, staff, students and parents to respect, accept, and understand the diverse global community in which we live.

Objective: To expand teachers' and students' appreciation for the cultural differences which make us all unique and to foster an acceptance of these differences.

Action Steps

1. Hire and retain a multicultural faculty and staff.
2. Provide on-going staff development for all faculty and staff around diversity issues.
3. Continue the ethnic music program daily during morning announcements. Emphasize major events or people via morning announcements again with an emphasis on diversity and cultural contributions to society.
4. Continue Word of the Week using words with different origins. Add a "Math of the Week" component.
5. Plan the second annual Cultural Connections Day.
6. Examine the school programs (after school enrichment, alternative challenge/exhibition programs, etc.) to insure that participation rates in school activities by students (and parents) are reflective of the broad diversity within the school community.

Indicators of Accomplishment:

1. Job Fairs will be attended and qualified male and minority candidates interviewed.
2. District/school staff professional days directed toward diversity issues.
3. Ethnic music program and world events/recognition made during morning announcements.
4. Word of the Week program continued with addition of the "Math of the Week" program.
5. Conduct the second annual Cultural Connections Day.
6. Evaluate necessary programming to meet all needs, appropriately advertise, and track attendance.

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Goal: 4. To strengthen safety initiatives ensuring a positive learning environment

Action Steps

1. Continue to enforce school-wide rules and hold various assemblies to review them. Utilize peer leaders to reinforce safety rules at the school.
2. Continue to monitor safety practices on election days during arrival, dismissal and recess.
3. Actively promote Internet safety through a variety of media resources (e.g. curriculum materials, web site enhancements, newsletters, and parent meetings.)
4. Continue to ensure that safety procedures are communicated and practiced as required. Evaluate safety on the bus quarterly and solicit parent support when necessary.
5. Enhance the Safe Routes to School Program and apply for appropriate grants.
6. Continue to place emphasis on the Go Green recycling program.

Indicators of Accomplishment:

1. Assemblies held. Have older students present to younger students when appropriate.
2. Crossing areas are safe.
3. Information about Internet safety is disseminated.
4. Fire drills, lockdowns and bus evacuation procedures practiced and improved, including educating volunteers. Bus safety surveys and follow up are conducted quarterly.
5. Safe Routes to School Program continued with grant money investigated.
6. Go Green Recycling Program continued.