

Parsippany-Troy Hills Township School District Progress Report on District Goals 2018-19

Presented to the Parsippany-Troy Hills
Board of Education
February 7, 2019

Goal #1: Our district will create an innovative and rigorous educational experience in a borderless learning community that produces creative students who are problem solvers and self-directed individuals.

■ District Curriculum Renewal Plans

- Language Arts: Pilot of Reading/Writing Workshop is occurring in select 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes at both middle schools with plan for full implementation in September.
- Social Studies: AP Human Geography and Holocaust/Genocide Studies proposed for 2019-20 school year.
- World Languages: A full year of 6th grade Spanish, French, or Italian will be implemented for the 2019-20 school year. Parents and students participated in a survey to identify potential new language study options.
- Mathematics: *Reflex Math* has been incorporated into elementary classrooms as a resource for strengthening fact fluency. An Advanced 5th Grade Math program is being developed for the 2019-20 school year in all elementary schools.
- Music: All opportunities for elementary students to be introduced to band instruments for 4th grade lessons are now handled at our own high schools. Plans are underway for a Strings Program to begin next year in 3rd grade.

Parsippany High School Parsippany Hills High School

Proposed Courses 2019-20

ENGLISH

Literature and Film (Semester Elective)
Superheroes and Modern Mythology (Semester Elective)

SOCIAL STUDIES

Holocaust and Genocide Studies (Semester Elective)
Human Geography AP

INDUSTRIAL ARTS

Home Technology Systems, Maintenance, and Repair (Semester Elective)

FOOD SCIENCES

Nutrition for an Active Lifestyle (Semester Elective)

MATHEMATICS

AP Calculus AB

VISUAL/PERFORMING ARTS

Digital Photography II (Full Year Elective)
Art History AP

WORLD LANGUAGE

Introduction to ASL (Semester Elective and does not meet World Language graduation requirement)

Goal #1: Our district will create an innovative and rigorous educational experience in a borderless learning community that produces creative students who are problem solvers and self-directed individuals.

- Explore online/borderless learning opportunities for high school students
 - Partnering with *Virtual High School*, we will offer a “bank” of 40 seats to high school students for online study at district cost.
- Implement Genius Hour in selected high school classes
- Support the “semi-departmentalization” of Grade 5 classes.
- Increase STEM opportunities at all grade levels
 - New FOSS (Full Option Science Systems) program implemented in grades K-5
 - Reviewing middle school electives for new STEM/Technology instruction
 - Researching a “STEM Pathway” for high school programming for the 2020-21 school year which would include special diploma endorsement
 - *Chipwrecked* Robotics Team established at PHHS
 - Renewed push for Robotics class enrollment at PHHS (did not run this year)

Goal #1: Our district will create an innovative and rigorous educational experience in a borderless learning community that produces creative students who are problem solvers and self-directed individuals.

- Expand elective offerings at the middle school
 - Students were surveyed for areas of interest. New courses for 2019-20 will include “Sports and Literature” and “Foods – Grade 7”.

- Expand dual enrollment to include CCM and other colleges
 - Tentative dual enrollment opportunity with Child Development and Parenting and Honors Human Development through CCM
 - Exploring NJIT dual enrollment for select courses

Goal #2: All students will receive social and emotional support to become adaptable, confident citizens who embody self-awareness and strong interpersonal skills, capable of responsible decision-making and managing their emotions and behaviors.

- Research and select a highly effective SEL program.
 - Committee reviewed several programs with a decision to implement Sanford Learning. Training occurred for Phase I implementation in December. Full implementation planned for 2019-20.
 - Will call for committee members to assist with selection of a secondary level SEL program for implementation in September 2020.

- Establish opportunities to assist parents and families in supporting their children's social-emotional well-being.
 - Superintendent "Book Study" for parents on Crazy-Stressed: Saving Today's Overwhelmed Teens with Love, Laughter, and the Science of Resilience
 - ESL teachers led an Open House for families and are running tutorial classes in the evenings for parents.

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- Cross-Town Leadership Retreat scheduled for Saturday, February 23 between PHS and PHHS students
- Brain Breaks infused into elementary classrooms
- Exploring “One Book, One School” for summer 2019
- PHS re-designed Freshman Orientation to provide for small-group discussions, station rotations, and student-led sessions

Goal #3: Our community of adult learners will be fully engaged in professional growth experiences which enable them to continuously hone their craft and maximize student achievement.

- Develop a professional learning framework to provide learning opportunities for continued improvement and growth.
 - November 7th Inservice Day offered a menu of options for educators.
 - Writing Workshop training is differentiated by grade level for stronger teacher support.
 - ScIP Committees at each school worked with the principals to identify key learning topics for January 21 Inservice.
 - New Staff Academy classes are differentiated by subject, grade span, and other areas to provide relevant training.
 - A district Professional Development Committee has been established and had a successful first meeting on February 5.
 - Professional development is connected to curriculum renewal work. (Writing workshop, document-based questions, inquiry-based science, *Reflex Math*, etc.)

Goal #3: Our community of adult learners will be fully engaged in professional growth experiences which enable them to continuously hone their craft and maximize student achievement.

- Continue to embrace and build teacher leadership.
 - Workshops on teacher leadership and career paths in educational leadership were offered during the November inservice.
 - Educators are included on Interview Committees for Vice-Principal, Principal, Supervisor, and other positions.
 - The “Administrative Internship” page of the district website has been enhanced. One teacher is currently engaged in our Internship program. The deadline for 2019-20 consideration is March 30.

- Looking beyond our Parsippany borders
 - Organized buses to the *Saturday Reunion* at Teachers College in October and (almost here!) March for free literacy workshops.
 - Partnership with Morris-Union Jointure Commission established.
 - Teacher attendance at Paramus Institute and Teachers College Summer Institute supported.



Completion Report on District Goals

Thursday, June 27 Board of Education meeting