



# Pleasantdale Elementary/Middle School Improvement Plans

Mission Statement: *To create a community of inspired learners*



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## Background

### **Pleasantdale School District**

Pleasantdale School District 107 is located in the western suburbs of Illinois and serves all or part of the communities of Burr Ridge, Countryside, Indian Head Park, Willow Springs, and LaGrange. Our 833 students are served by two schools, Pleasantdale Elementary School, which serves grades Pre-K through 4, and Pleasantdale Middle School, which serves grades 5 through 8.

We are proud of our schools and the learning environment we have created for our students. In this report, you will find detailed information about our school improvement goals. Our schools follow a model of continuous improvement which means we are always seeking new ways to improve the student experience. Our goals are written using the SMART Goals format (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound) and are directly related to our District Goals and priorities. Below is specific information about each of our schools.



### **Pleasantdale Elementary School**

Pleasantdale Elementary School is comprised of 439 students in preschool through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Staff members are dedicated to making the learning process innovative and engaging to promote student learning. We strive to instill passion for lifelong learning in our students. Regardless of where they begin, we want our students to show at least a year's growth academically, socially, and emotionally over the course of the school year. To help students achieve this goal, our school offers a variety of services including: Reading Explorers, Reading Lab, After School Math Club, ELL, Rainbows, and enrichment services. The addition of full-time Resource Teacher, full-time certified



Math Specialist, and a full-time Behavior Specialist to the Pleasantdale staff this year also helps us reach our goals.

To ensure student growth, the staff uses assessments including MAP, FastBridge, Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System, and Bridges Number Corner Baseline Assessment. Students at Pleasantdale Elementary School demonstrate consistent growth and performance that exceed national norms. Assessment data is used to identify areas of improvement and generate actions to address students' needs. This is a collaborative, flexible, and ongoing process. The staff understands that goal-achievement requires ownership and a determined common focus. This understanding and goal-setting process leads to better student outcomes. Consistency of instructional materials and methods across the grade level, and from one grade level to the next, is essential to maximize learning.

Our comprehensive curriculum is grounded in research and best practice. Students receive instruction in reading, math, science, and social studies. We integrate differentiation into our daily instruction and support individual students who need further differentiation through our Special Education Resource Team, Social Worker, EL Specialists, Reading Specialists, Math Specialist and Talented and Gifted Specialist. We provided tiered intervention services to support students as they close any learning gaps they may have. Further differentiation is also provided by members of this team to support students who may need academic acceleration in reading and/or math. Students also participate in Physical Education, Spanish, Music, Art and Library on a weekly basis.



The Social Emotional Learning (SEL) component is an essential part of each child's growth at Pleasantdale Elementary School. Staff and parents know students do well when they feel safe, confident, and happy. Although our SEL theme changes every



year, the learning goals and basic structure remain fairly constant. Our theme this year is “Pleasantdale...A Place to Grow”. We use this theme to both articulate our common belief in Growth Mindset and also to reinforce our code of conduct, *The Eagle Way*. This code of conduct is consistently communicated in classrooms, hallways, buses, etc. and in situations such as assemblies, field trips, and other school activities. It works well because of its simplicity and consistent use throughout a student’s day with us.

#### The Eagle Way

- Be Safe
- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible

Elementary students have numerous opportunities to get involved in fine arts and other extracurricular activities. Activities include STEM Club, Student Council, After School Math Club, Chess Club, Battle of the Books, Intramurals, Cheerleading, Yoga, Coding Club, MakerSpace Art Club, Student Council, Geography Club, Book Club, vocal music performances, and 4th grade Band/Orchestra.

The creation of our School Improvement Plan is a collaborative process with input from the entire staff. Led by our School Leadership Team, goals are identified based on the District’s Strategic Blueprint. From there information is gathered from all staff members and integrated to create our action plan and deliverables. Our staff, through the Leadership Team, reviews our Plan on a regular basis to monitor progress toward achieving our goals.

#### **Pleasantdale Middle School**

Pleasantdale Middle School is a comprehensive, high achieving Middle School, with 390 students enrolled across Grades 5-8. The daily schedule is comprised of nine class periods, and students participate in the following classes: two periods of English Language Arts, Science, Math, Social Studies, Spanish, Physical Education, and

Specials, which annually include three of the following four: Art, Health, General Music, STEM. Advanced curriculum is provided in each grade level in English Language Arts, and an accelerated curriculum is provided in Math, including Geometry offered at the local high school. Interventions are provided through a well developed multi-tiered system of support through a full-time reading specialist, full-time math specialist, and school social worker. Differentiation is provided in the general education setting while targeted interventions are provided through math and reading lab classes. Additional supports include after-school programs and subject-specific study halls.

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) standards are integrated regularly into classroom activities. The school culture places a very high priority on teaching students how to identify and manage their emotions and behavior, demonstrate skills related to achieving personal and academic goals, use communication and social skills to interact effectively with others, and how to contribute to the well-being of the school and community.

The common language used for student expectations are described below:

The I's of the Tiger

- I am Respectful.
- I am Responsible.
- I am Safe.

Student performance on state-level assessments has traditionally been well above the state average, with most students meeting or exceeding standards, as measured by PARCC. This trend continues on the MAP assessment by NWEA, with many students performing above national averages on the fall of 2018 assessment.

In addition to a rich academic program, Pleasantdale





Middle School boasts a strong co-curricular and athletic program, available to all students. Various clubs and activities are developed by staff members, based upon students' responses to interest surveys, and are available to students three times per week. Sample clubs include fishing, cooking, art, gardening, recycling, STEM, photography, and a wide variety of intramural activities. Competitive athletics are offered at grades 7 and 8, and our students compete against other area middle schools in boys' and girls' cross country (grades 5-8), basketball, softball, volleyball, and soccer.

The School Improvement Plan (SIP) is developed collaboratively, with the engagement of the Building Leadership Team (BLT) and input from the full staff. Goals are developed that align with the District identified goals, specifying the role of the middle school in achieving these targets. These goals are shared and deliverables are developed through all staff meetings. Goals are measured, monitored, and reviewed throughout the course of the year through staff and grade level meetings.



## School Improvement Plan: Pleasantdale Elementary School

<b>Goal Area 1: Building Learning Capacity</b>
Goal Statement: Pleasantdale Elementary School will adopt workshop model of instruction that supports individualized student learning through differentiation and timely/targeted feedback.
Timeline: May 2019
Measures: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. At the end of the 2018-19 school year, the identified deliverables will be accomplished.</li></ol>
Deliverables: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. K-4 ELA teachers will participate in Writer's Workshop professional development training;</li><li>2. K-4 classes will utilize Writer's Workshop model of instruction based on Lucy Calkins' Units of Study;</li><li>3. Professional development in the area of reading strategies will continue allowing teachers to apply Jennifer Serravallo's <i>Reading Strategies</i> resource as they differentiate instruction and provide specific feedback to students</li></ol>

  

<b>Goal Area 2: Building Learning Environments</b>
Goal Statement: Pleasantdale Elementary School will implement district safety task force recommendations to ensure that we continue to provide a safe and secure school environment.
Timeline: May 2019
Measures: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. At the end of the 2018-19 school year, the identified deliverables will be accomplished.</li></ol>
Deliverables: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Visitor management system will be implemented;</li><li>2. All staff will have access to CrisisGo, an electronic crisis manual (ie. flipchart);</li><li>3. Establish safety and supervision protocols for arrival/dismissal/recess supervisors;</li><li>4. Training for staff on safety and supervision protocols;</li><li>5. Improved communications (ie. walkie-talkies) among supervisors and administration;</li><li>6. Updated escape maps;</li><li>7. Stock trauma kits (bandaids, protective gloves, tissues, etc.) within the</li></ol>

- school;  
8. Staff will be trained in “lockdown with options” active shooter training

### **Goal Area 3: Building Human Capital**

#### **Goal Statement:**

1. Pleasantdale Elementary School will pilot a co-teaching model of instruction in ELA and Math.

**Timeline:** May 2019

#### **Measures:**

1. At the end of the 2018-19 school year, the identified deliverables will be accomplished.

#### **Deliverables:**

1. There will be one (1) section of co-teaching at each grade level K-4;
2. Co-Teaching Professional Development will be provided to certified staff;
3. Schedule alignment;
4. Increased integration of Resource students into the general education classroom;
5. Increased support by certified staff to all students;
6. Intentional scheduling of students to increase student support with the goal of increased achievement for all students



## School Improvement Plan: Pleasantdale Middle School

<b>Goal Area 1: Building Learning Environments</b>
Goal Statement: Pleasantdale Middle School will develop improved articulation processes for the 4th to 5th-grade transition, grade-to-grade transitions, and middle to high school transitions to support students.
Timeline: May 2019
Measures: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. At the end of the 2018-19 school year, the identified deliverables will be accomplished.</li></ol>
Deliverables: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Collaboratively review and revise the 4th to 5th articulation process between the elementary and middle school;</li><li>2. Discuss and implement grade-to-grade transitions focused on academics and areas of strength and need of upcoming classes;</li><li>3. Review high school transition process with LTHS and provide suggestions for improvement, if necessary.</li></ol>

<b>Goal Area 2: Building Human Capital</b>
Goal Statement: Pleasantdale Middle School will pilot a co-teaching model of instruction in ELA and Math.
Timeline: May 2019
Measures: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. At the end of the 2018-19 school year, the identified deliverables will be accomplished.</li></ol>
Deliverables: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. There will be one (1) section of co-teaching at each grade level 5-8 in ELA and Math;</li><li>2. Co-Teaching Professional Development will be provided to certified staff;</li><li>3. Schedule alignment to support co-planning;</li><li>4. Increased integration of resource students into the general education classroom;</li><li>5. Intentional scheduling of students to increase student support with the goal of increased achievement for all students</li></ol>

<b>Goal Area 3: Building Learning Capacity</b>
Goal Statement: Build capacity for the school community and students related to Growth Mindset.
Timeline: May 2019
Measures: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. At the end of the 2018-19 school year, the identified deliverables will be accomplished.</li></ol>
Deliverables: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Continue to build depth of understanding with staff;</li><li>2. Share with the greater school community the concept of a growth mindset and how they can support their children at home;</li><li>3. Begin to explicitly teach kids about growth mindset seeking ways to systematize this important learning for the future.</li></ol>