



## Donaldson Elementary

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: Amphitheater Governing Board  
FROM: Dawn Tinsley  
RE: Principal's Governing Board Presentation  
DATE: January 12, 2016

### Donaldson Elementary School

#### Our Mission:

The mission of Donaldson Elementary school is to inspire students to be responsible life-long learners who are productive members of society

#### Our Code:

Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible

#### We Believe:

- All children are entitled to an education, which will prepare them for the future.
- All children have the right to feel successful.
- The school and community share the responsibility of developing positive work, social and personal ethics in all children.
- Education best occurs in an environment that nurtures dignity, self-esteem, and a feeling of security.
- Communication is essential if quality education is to occur.
- The school community needs to promote an understanding for individual, cultural and societal differences.
- High expectations encourage students to work toward a higher level of achievement.
- Schools must address environmental, societal and technological changes.
- Education is a life-long process.
- All children are natural learners.
- Education is the combined responsibility of the students, parents, teachers and the community.
- School decisions must reflect what is best for students.
- Development of the whole child, includes quality instruction in Music, Art and Physical Education.
- The responsibility for one's education and action needs to be accepted by each student.
- Respect is an essential value.

#### We Value:

achievement, caring, creativity, curiosity, diligence, diversity, fairness, honesty, kindness, respectfulness, responsibility, and service to the community.

Donaldson Elementary School houses a pre-school for children ages 3-5 with special needs who have been identified through the Child Find program, grades Kindergarten through 5th, and a K-2 Cross Categorical Self-Contained Special Education class. Many Donaldson parents, and even some grandparents, attended Donaldson themselves and have returned with their children and grandchildren. Donaldson is often described by students, staff and parents as a school that “feels like family”.

The Donaldson teaching staff consists of 24 highly qualified, full and part time, educators and specialists. Paraprofessionals include a Library Aide, an Instructional Technology Assistant, a Behavior Intervention Monitor, and 9 Teaching Assistants. Donaldson also has a full-time Reading Interventionist, a half-time School Psychologist, a half-time Social Worker, 1 full-time and 3 half-time Speech Pathologists, a full-time health assistant, and a half-time Special Education Clerical Assistant, as well as 2 full and 1 part-time custodians, 3 campus monitors, 3 food service workers, an office Clerk and an Administrative Assistant.

Donaldson has had 3 principals over the past 10 years, and has held the ranking by AZLEARNS as a “B” school since 2013. Thirteen of the 24 teaching staff have been at Donaldson for less than 5 years. Donaldson was designated as a Title 1 school for the first time in 2013, and began receiving funding as part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center grant for before and after-school programs in 2014. Many of the neighborhood homes are now owned by retired community members, and the homes that are for sale are often priced too high for most growing families. Many apartment buildings have been built in the surrounding area, and a significant number of Donaldson families are living in those apartments.

#### **Cultural and Demographic Data:**

- Enrollment: 314 students (Pre-k -42, K-49, 1<sup>st</sup>-44, 2<sup>nd</sup>-51, 3<sup>rd</sup>-50, 4<sup>th</sup>-39, 5<sup>th</sup> 39)
- Average Daily Attendance Rate: 95%
- Diversity: Asian-4.5%, Black-2.2%, Hispanic-36.5%, Native American-2.8%, White-51.8%, Multi-racial-2.2%
- English Language Learners: 4%, 5 languages (Spanish, Thai, Arabic, Mandarin and Marshallese)
- Students Receiving Special Education Services: 32%
- Students identified as gifted in at least one area: 10%
- Student Mobility Rate in 2014-2015: 38.2%. (Since August 7<sup>th</sup>, 34 students have withdrawn and 38 have enrolled)
- Students qualifying for Free and Reduced Lunch: 55%
- Open Enrolled Students: 24% of students in grades K-5 (47 students from within Amphi, 27 students out of district)
- Volunteers: During the first quarter of this school year alone, volunteers have worked with our students for more than 1500 hours.

#### **Instructional Programs:**

- REACH Program for identified Gifted and Talented Students (Co-teaching and pullout)
- Inclusive Special Education Services (to best meet student needs)
- Accelerated Math Classes
- Blended Learning (My Math, Kahn Academy, Carnegie Math)
- Hands on Equations and Creative Problem Solving
- Engineering is Elementary
- Lucy Calkins *Units of Study in Opinion, Information, and Narrative Writing*
- 90 Minute Math Blocks (1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>)
- 120 Minute ELA Blocks (1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>)
- Waterford Early Literacy Program (K, 1<sup>st</sup>)

- Reading Intervention (30 minutes per day in addition to the ELA Block for identified students)
- 25-30 Chromebooks in each building (K-1, 2-3, 4-5)
- 50 Minute Art, Music, Physical Education, Library and Computer classes each week

#### **Extra-Curricular Activities:**

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center – ACHIEVE Clubs
  - Primary STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)
  - Intermediate STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math)
  - Chemistry of Cooking
  - Boys Sports
  - Milers Club
  - Morning Tutoring
  - Homework Clubs
  - Tennis and Fitness
  - Water Safety and Swimming
- National Elementary Honor Society
- Odyssey of the Mind (3 teams)
- Band
- Orchestra
- News Crew
- Invention Convention
- Student Council
- Seasonal Fun Runs
- Primary and Intermediate Field Days
- Monthly Spirit Assemblies
- Kindness Rally
- District Track Meet
- Spelling Bee
- Ben's Bells Kind Campus – Be Kind Club (Mural to be installed in March)
- Birthday Books Program
- Ice Cream Fridays

#### **Family Events:**

- Meet the Teacher (the day before school starts)
- Parent Information Night - Open House
- Family Math Nights
- Literacy Nights
- Book Fairs
- Movie Nights
- Quarterly Parenting Workshops
- Veterans Day Breakfast
- Musical Performances
- Donaldson Day Carnival
- Star Parties
- Family Dance
- Donaldson Community Day (Campus Beautification)

#### **Community Partnerships:**

- Poppkidz – Partnering with 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC and ACHIEVE Clubs
- CORE Ministries – Donaldson Community Day, Movie Night Set-ups
- Barnes & Noble Foothills Mall – Holiday Book Drive Donations

**Data of Interest:**

NWEA MAP Data

N=2015 Norm data Mean

	Reading	Math
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade		
Fall 2014	Mean RIT 180 (N176)	Mean RIT 181 (N178)
Spring 2015	Mean RIT 194 (N190)	Mean RIT 203 (N191)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade		
Fall 2014	Mean RIT 190 (N190)	Mean RIT 191 (N192)
Spring 2015	Mean RIT 200 (N199)	Mean RIT 207 (N203)
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade		
Fall 2014	Mean RIT 200 (N200)	Mean RIT 205 (N204)
Spring 2015	Mean RIT 207 (N206)	Mean RIT 214 (N214)
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade		
Fall 2014	Mean RIT 205 (N207)	Mean RIT 215 (N213)
Spring 2015	Mean RIT 214 (N212)	Mean RIT 224 (N221)

The Spring mean for the students at Donaldson continues to fall above the mean for the national norm on NWEA's Measures of Academic Progress (MAP).

**School Improvement:**

1. Reading and Writing are the focus of the majority of professional development and data discussions at Donaldson. We are in year 2 of the study and implementation of Lucy Calkins *Units of Study in Opinion, Information, and Narrative Writing*.
2. As part of our work on the AdvancEd required actions, this month we will begin a book study of *Classroom Assessment for Student Learning Doing It Right-Using It Well*. This study will lead us to examine assessment and grading practices as well.
3. As part of our 301 Plan, teachers in grades 3-5 will be providing presentations on teaching about Data and Measurement using their Engineering Is Elementary kits.
4. A team of general education and special education teachers have formed a team to examine special education service delivery at Donaldson. It is our belief that far too many students identified with learning disabilities are being serviced in a more restrictive environment, limiting their exposure to grade level vocabulary and curriculum. This team has received over 12 hours of training, and is currently implementing more inclusive services than have been in place in the past at Donaldson.
5. Goal Team Structures are in place to ensure continuous improvement. A Math and Science, an ELA and Fine Arts, and a Student Supports goal team are all in place with all teaching and some support staff as members. These teams study data, set goals, develop plans for improvement, carry out assigned action items, collect and analyze data, and develop new plans or make adjustments as necessary in a continuous improvement cycle. (See sample form on page 5)

Goal team: \_\_\_\_\_

Goal name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Study</b>	What needs to be improved and what specific outcomes need to occur?			
	What is the current condition and data that supports the need for improvement?			
	Who are the direct customers of the improvement and how will this benefit them?			
	Alignment: What District/SIP priority does this improvement support? How will this support that priority?			
<b>Plan</b>	<b>Strategy:</b> What is the general approach to achieving the outcome?			
	What resources may be needed and who else will be involved?			
	What and how will the improvement be evaluated for results?			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Person</b>	<b>Results</b>	<b>Date of Completion</b>
	Will this require additional fiscal resources? Y N			Est. Cost \$
Will this require additional human resources? Y N			Est. Cost \$	
<b>Study</b>	What were the accomplishments and the outcome results?			
	What was the impact of the improvement on the direct customers? What can be done for future improvement?			