



Pleasantdale  
Elementary/Middle School  
Improvement Plans

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



## Table of Contents

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District Background .....	2
Pleasantdale Elementary School Background .....	2
Pleasantdale Middle School Background .....	3
Pleasantdale Elementary School (SIP) .....	6
Pleasantdale Middle School (SIP) .....	8



## 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 435 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, the school offers a variety of services including: Reading Explorers, Reading Lab, After School Math Club, ELL, Rainbows, and enrichment services.

To ensure student growth, the staff uses assessments including MAP, AIMSweb, and Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System. 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, and Talented and Gifted Specialist. We provided tiered intervention services to support students as they close any learning gaps they may have. Students also participate in Physical Education, 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 is Going Places" We use this theme to reinforce our code of conduct, *The Eagle Way*. This code of conduct is consistently communicated in classrooms, hallways, busses, etc. and in situations such as assemblies, field trips, and all 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, Pen Pal Club, Student Council, Coding Club, 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 394 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 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 has continued in the recently adopted assessment, the NWEA MAP, with many students performing above national averages on the fall of 2017 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 faculty 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 & 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 refined through full staff and grade level team meetings. Goals are measured, monitored, and reviewed throughout the course of the year through full 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 explore and pilot opportunities to provide students with experiences which allow them to be communicators, problem solvers, global citizens and individuals.
Timeline: May 2018
Measures: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At the end of the 2017-18 school year, the identified deliverables will be accomplished.</li> </ol>
Deliverables: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implementation of Second Step as a component of SEL learning Preschool-Grade 4.</li> <li>2. Implementation of Genius Hour in Grade 4.</li> <li>3. Implementation of Bridges as a component of math instruction Kindergarten-Grade 4.</li> <li>4. Implementation of Coding Club for Grades 3-4.</li> <li>5. Implementation of STEM Club for Grade 4.</li> </ol>

<b>Goal Area 2: Building Learning Environments</b>
Goal Statement: Pleasantdale Elementary School will expand and create new opportunities to celebrate the accomplishments of staff and students.
Timeline: May 2018
Measures: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At the end of the 2017-18 school year, the identified deliverables will be accomplished and/or integrated into our school community and communication.</li> </ol>
Deliverables: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Distribution of Monday Memo including pictures and postings of staff and/or student success'.</li> <li>2. Distribution of Eagle Express including pictures and postings of staff and/or student success'.</li> <li>3. Use of Bulletin Board in Lounge to share staff celebrations and/or build community.</li> <li>4. Integration of Celebrations into monthly staff meetings.</li> <li>5. Creation of School Life/Social Committee to organize/facilitate relationship building</li> </ol>





<b>Goal Area 3: Building Human Capital</b>
Goal Statement: 1. Pleasantdale Elementary School will build a comprehensive mentoring program for new staff members.
Timeline: May 2018
Measures: 1. At the end of the 2017-18 school year, the identified deliverables will be accomplished.
Deliverables: 1. Identify team of teachers to participate in mentor training. 2. Mentoring Team will participate in training sessions through Northwestern University. 3. Create a schedule of 'just in time' topics for mentor/mentee meetings.



## School Improvement Plan: Pleasantdale Middle School

<b>Goal Area 1: Building Learning Capacity</b>
Goal Statement: Pleasantdale Middle School will explore and pilot opportunities to provide students with experiences which allow them to be communicators, problem solvers, global citizens, and individuals.
Timeline: 2017-2018 School Year
Measures <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the end of the 2017-18 school year, the identified deliverables will be accomplished.</li> </ol>
Deliverables: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student Mentor Programs (8th graders and PMS graduates mentoring 5th grade students; Student Ambassadors)</li> <li>Expand Summer Academy enrichment course options</li> <li>Explore and possibly pilot an 8th grade capstone project</li> <li>Identify the greatest areas of need (GAN) for our students and plan for adjustments to our school programming in the future to meet these needs.</li> </ol>

<b>Goal Area 2: Building Human Capital</b>
Goal Statement: Pleasantdale Middle School will expand and create new opportunities to celebrate the accomplishments of staff and students.
Timeline: 2017-2018 School Year
Measures: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the end of the 2017-18 school year, the identified deliverables will be accomplished.</li> </ol>
Deliverables: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revise and continue the P.A.W.S. (<u>P</u>ositive <u>A</u>cts <u>W</u>ithin our <u>S</u>chool) student recognition program each trimester.</li> <li>Revise and continue the Tiger Stripe student recognition program</li> <li>#107StaffShoutout-staff recognizing each other for accomplishment, good work, supporting each other, etc.</li> </ol>



4. Monthly staff lobster awards recognizing staff members who are taking risks and attempting new and innovative teaching methodologies.

### **Goal Area 3: Building Learning Environments**

Goal Statement: Pleasantdale Middle School will investigate and find creative solutions to provide spaces for testing, related services, interventions, sensory breaks, developmentally appropriate play/exploration.

Timeline: 2017-2018 School Year

#### **Measures**

1. At the conclusion of the 2017-2018 school year, the following deliverables will be accomplished to better support student learning, meet individual student needs, and provide opportunities for large groups of students to learn together.

#### **Deliverables**

1. Utilize Room 21 to meet student needs.
2. Repurpose the Computer Lab to meet student needs.
3. Addition of a projector and screen in the APR to support large group learning opportunities (ie. author visits, grade level learning, etc.).
4. Acquisition of mobile presentation station with Apple TV.