

Our Schools

Pleasantdale Elementary School serves students in preschool through 4th grade. Staff members are dedicated to making the learning process exciting and engaging. 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, EL, Rainbows, and enrichment services.



To measure student growth, the building uses a variety of standardized benchmarks. Students at Pleasantdale Elementary School demonstrate consistent growth and performance that exceeds 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 levels and from one grade level to the next is essential to maximize learning.

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 constant.

Elementary students have numerous opportunities to get involved in fine arts and other extracurricular activities. Activities include After School Math Club, Homework Club, Battle of the Books, Intramurals, Recycling Club, Cheerleading, Pen Pal Club, Student Council, Coding Club, Spelling Bees, Concerts, and 4th grade Band/Orchestra.

Pleasantdale Middle School is a comprehensive, high achieving middle school, with students enrolled in 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: Art, Health, General Music, Computers (Grade 5) and STEM. Advanced curriculum is provided in English Language Arts classes and Accelerated Curriculum is provided in Math, including Geometry courses at the local high school. Interventions are provided through a well-developed multi-tiered system of support, led by a RtI Facilitator and school Social Worker. Targeted interventions are provided through Math and Reading lab classes. Additional supports include after school programs (Tutor Club) and subject specific study halls. Students participate in regularly scheduled activities centered around Social and Emotional Learning Standards.

Student performance on state level assessments has traditionally been well above the state average, with most students meeting or exceeding standards, as measured by state assessment. Our graduating students perform equally well in high school, with over 80% of our graduating classes being recognized with honor roll achievement.

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 activities include: fishing, cooking, art, gardening, STEM, 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.



MISSION:
To create a community of inspired learners.

Pleasantdale 107 Believes Children Learn Best When...

Students are passionately engaged in topics that examine world issues, where they feel a sense of purpose and in which they make a difference.

Students have voice/choice and work alongside peers and teachers in collaborative environments.

Students feel physically, socially and emotionally safe, their sense of control is high and judgement from others is low. Students are fearless with the right support.

Students receive effective feedback that fuels their natural desire to do better in a try, fail and try again, growth mindset environment.

Students have dynamic teachers who utilize various teaching styles and have fun learning together. Staff serves as an advocate for ALL children.

District Goals

Building Learning Capacity:
Pleasantdale leaders and learners will cultivate advancement of global competency and cultural awareness through innovative learning experiences.

Building Learning Environments:
Our schools will provide flexible learning environments that promote purposeful collaboration and a balanced educational approach to create inspired 21st century learners.

Building Human Capital:
Ensure Pleasantdale is recruiting, hiring, and retaining high-level professionals that engage in collaborative professional development and are committed to learning and implementing innovative strategies focused on improved student learning.

Qualities of a Pleasantdale Graduate

Communicator

Problem Solver

Global Citizen

Individual

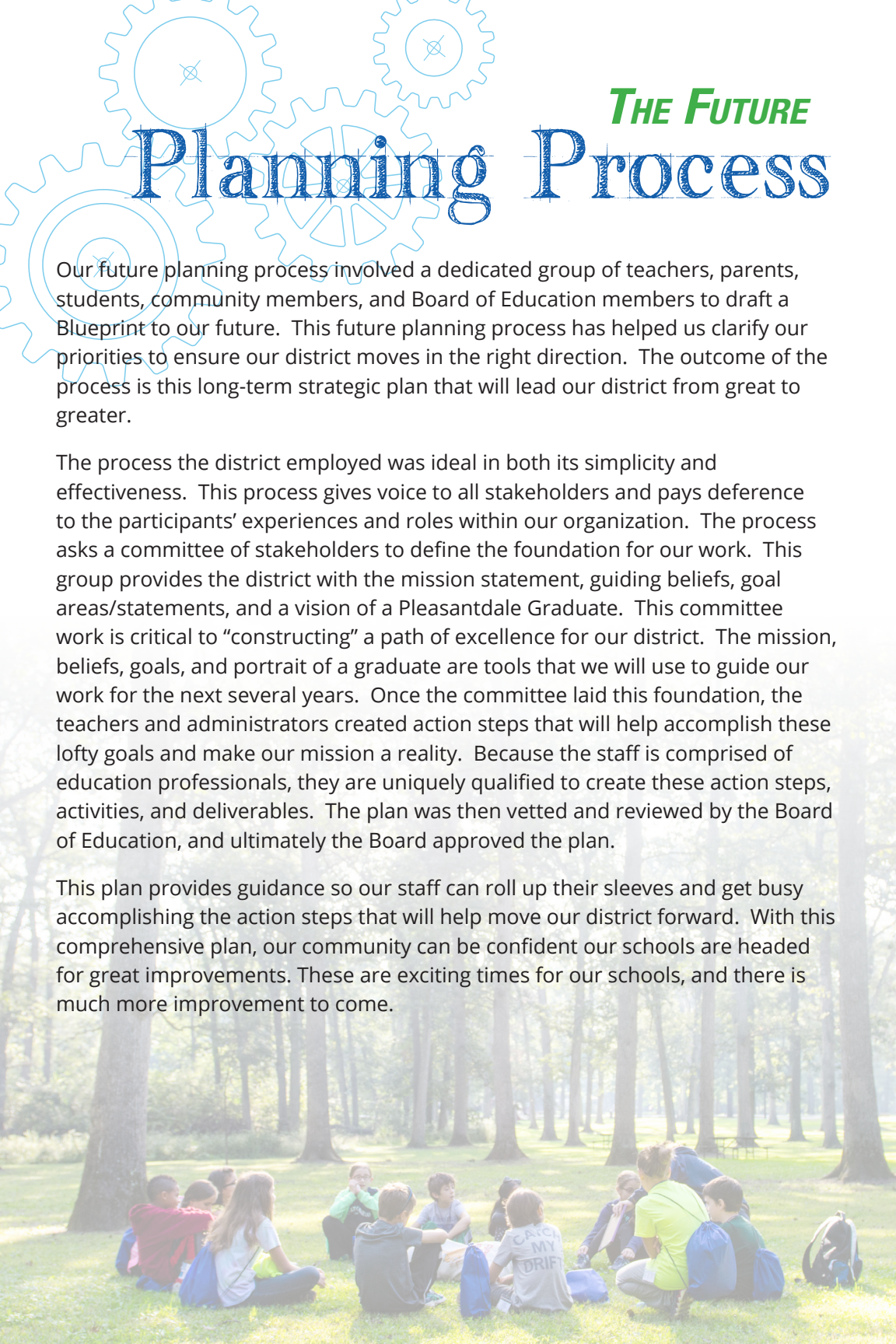


THE FUTURE Planning Process

Our future planning process involved a dedicated group of teachers, parents, students, community members, and Board of Education members to draft a Blueprint to our future. This future planning process has helped us clarify our priorities to ensure our district moves in the right direction. The outcome of the process is this long-term strategic plan that will lead our district from great to greater.

The process the district employed was ideal in both its simplicity and effectiveness. This process gives voice to all stakeholders and pays deference to the participants' experiences and roles within our organization. The process asks a committee of stakeholders to define the foundation for our work. This group provides the district with the mission statement, guiding beliefs, goal areas/statements, and a vision of a Pleasantdale Graduate. This committee work is critical to "constructing" a path of excellence for our district. The mission, beliefs, goals, and portrait of a graduate are tools that we will use to guide our work for the next several years. Once the committee laid this foundation, the teachers and administrators created action steps that will help accomplish these lofty goals and make our mission a reality. Because the staff is comprised of education professionals, they are uniquely qualified to create these action steps, activities, and deliverables. The plan was then vetted and reviewed by the Board of Education, and ultimately the Board approved the plan.

This plan provides guidance so our staff can roll up their sleeves and get busy accomplishing the action steps that will help move our district forward. With this comprehensive plan, our community can be confident our schools are headed for great improvements. These are exciting times for our schools, and there is much more improvement to come.



Knowledgeable and Empathetic

COMMUNICATOR

- Self-directs in speaking and writing
- Discerns key points of others
- Communicates in a variety of formats
- Refines and shares knowledge effectively
- Designs and adapts communication for target audience

Respectful and Creative

PROBLEM SOLVER

- Perseveres in finding solutions
- Uses a variety of approaches and methods
- Constructs effective arguments
- Identifies multiple solutions to problems

Passionate and Confident

INDIVIDUAL

- Possesses a sense of identity and self-awareness
- Uses effective feedback to grow
- Works autonomously and competently to reach goals
- Demonstrates adaptability and flexibility

Collaborative and Responsible

GLOBAL CITIZEN

- Takes personal responsibility
- Embraces different perspectives and disagrees respectfully
- Acts to improve conditions socially, globally, and personally
- Respects others and challenges injustice

Portrait of a Pleasantdale Graduate

Blueprint Details

2017-2018

Goal Area: Building Human Capital

5-Year Goal: We will ensure that PSD 107 is recruiting, hiring and retaining high level professionals who engage in collaborative professional development and are committed to learning and implementing innovative strategies focused on improved student learning.

Why is this goal important for District 107? With staff and students eager to learn and share, the time is right to put systems in place to provide the best professional development to our staff and hire only the best teachers for our classrooms. Accomplishing this goal will help transform teaching and learning in our schools and provide an improved school culture and climate.

Action Step	Responsible Person(s)	Timeline	Evidence of Completion
Develop a robust professional development system that is relevant, timely, pertinent and personalized for every staff member to enhance teaching and learning through collaboration.	Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning	Spring 2018	New PD system (i.e. PLC, coaching model with experts from staff) Staff survey Meeting logs or exit slips
Build a comprehensive mentoring program for all staff members (teachers, support staff, instructional aides, substitutes, and administrators).	Principals and Director of Special Education	June 2018	Mentoring Handbook Funding Structure
Explore building and district schedules allowing staff the time to have the greatest impact on teaching and learning.	Principals and Superintendents	June 2018	Recommendations to School Board
Review and align current practices for hiring to our new mission, beliefs and Portrait of a Graduate.	Superintendent	December 2017	Revised set of HR documents Interview training for Admin
Continue collaboration toward an improved evaluation system.	Joint Evaluation Committee	Ongoing	Meeting logs and meeting minutes Staff updates
In collaboration with TAP (<i>Teachers Association of Pleasantdale</i>), investigate various methods/models for collective bargaining.	Superintendent	2020	Present to School Board



To Create a Community of Inspired Learners

Blueprint Details

2017-2018

Goal Area: Building Learning Capacity

5-Year Goal: Pleasantdale leaders and learners will cultivate the advancement of global competency and cultural awareness through innovative learning experiences.

Why is this goal important for District 107? This goal will open new opportunities to our students and allow them to compete in a flattening world. This is critical to creating adaptive, innovative, empathetic, articulate, and respectful citizens.

Action Step	Responsible Person(s)	Timeline	Evidence of Completion
Explore and pilot opportunities to provide students with experiences which allow them to be communicators, problem solvers, global citizens and individuals (e.g., coding, MakerSpaces, recording rooms, Genius Hour, STEAM, etc.).	Principals and Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning	August 2018	Completed units of study/practices such as: PBL (<i>Problem Based Learning</i>), genius hour, STEAM, interdisciplinary units
Build capacity for growth mindset in the Pleasantdale community.	Administration	August 2018	A book study for all Provide presentations Professional Development Focused communication/blogs Student goal setting
Complete and publish an aligned curriculum in all fundamental learning areas (2-3 disciplines per year) pre-K through eighth grade that embeds technology and global competencies. (ELA, MATH, SCI, SS, ART, MUSIC, WORLD LANGUAGE, HEALTH, PHED, STEM, SEL).	Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning	Ongoing	Curriculum review cycle Curriculum document/map containing targets, essential questions, pacing PBL Units/Interdisciplinary Hands on resources Digital Citizenship training modules
Investigate various differentiation strategies to improve student learning through the use of formative and standardized assessment.	Administration	December 2017	Grade level team meeting notes Curriculum Wednesday agendas/notes Peer observations Reading/Writing Workshop model study
Expand the technology committee to enhance and evaluate the C4 learning plan.	Superintendent	Ongoing	Year 2 deliverables: Revised program outcomes Program evaluation system PSD107 Technology vision Meeting Agendas/Minutes

Blueprint Details

2017-2018

Goal Area: Building Learning Environments

5-Year Goal: We will provide flexible learning environments that promote purposeful collaboration and a balanced educational approach to create inspired 21st century learners.

Why is this goal important for District 107? This goal will provide our students with work experiences that reflect the real world and will allow teachers additional time/space to collaborate with one another.

Action Step	Responsible Person(s)	Timeline	Evidence of Completion
Explore flexible spaces and furniture arrangements for teacher to teacher, teacher to student, and student to student collaborative work.	School Business Manager and Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning	February 2018	Complete book study Complete site visits Summary of findings/ recommendations
Develop cycles for regular maintenance and upgrades (i.e., painting, blinds, floors, lockers, etc.)	School Business Manager	Fall 2017	Calendar developed of maintenance and budgets
Develop a refresh cycle for computers, LCD projectors, personal devices and other technologies.	School Business Manager	Fall 2017	Calendar developed of replacement purchases
Investigate and find creative solutions to provide spaces for testing, related services, interventions, sensory breaks, developmentally appropriate play/exploration, etc.	Director of Special Education and Principals	Spring 2018	Building schedule developed with utilization of available resources
Expand and create new opportunities to celebrate the accomplishments of staff and students.	Administration	Fall 2017	Scheduled recognition events and communication channels



To Create a Community of Inspired Learners

Measures of Progress

As a result of the work in this plan we can expect to see improvements in our student outcomes, the culture/climate of our schools, financial outcomes, and the satisfaction of our patrons (students and parents). The table below displays the tools which will be used to strategically measure our success.

Measurement Tool	Goal Statement	Specific Measures
Academic Measures of Progress		
NWEA-MAP Test	Set baseline measures for student growth in both reading and math for all grade levels.	Baseline
PARCC Exam	Improve attainment scores in reading and math.	Improve district composite scores in reading and math by 5%.
Elementary School Measures (AIMSWEB/Fountas & Pinnell)	Improve the early literacy skills of our emerging readers.	Reduce the percentage of students identified to participate in tiered interventions based on Aimsweb and Fountas & Pinnell measures by 2%
Culture/Climate Measures of Progress		
School Perceptions Community Survey	Improve our overall teacher and parent satisfaction with district services.	Improve results for the following groups in the following areas: Students: 5% improvement in measures of school perception Parents: 5% improvement in measures of communication Staff: 10% improvement in measures of overall satisfaction
Illinois 5Essentials Survey of Learning Conditions	Set baseline measures for all respondent groups (teachers, parents, and students in grade 6-8).	Baseline
Freshman Preparedness Survey	Set baseline measures in all subject areas for graduate preparedness.	Baseline
Professional Development Survey	Improve teacher satisfaction with and the effectiveness of our district delivered professional development.	85% of staff will rate district delivered professional development as a 4 (useful) or a 5 (very useful) on a five point scale.
Financial Measures of Progress		
Annual Financial Report	Individual fund expenditure containment	Expenditures in each major fund will be contained to the below increases: Education Fund: 3% Operations and Maintenance: 3% Transportation: 4% Capital Projects: 4%
Annual Financial Report	Overall budget expenditure containment	Overall budget expenditures will be contained to no more than 3.5% increase.
Bond Rating	Improvement of Bond Rating	The district will take measures to improve the bond rating from Aa2 to Aa1.