

Ridgefield Park Public Schools

Mission Statement

Our mission is to offer students educational opportunities that will foster lifelong learning and enable them to function politically, economically, and socially in a democratic society. Students will be assisted in becoming self-respecting individuals who reach their greatest potential. They will learn to act fairly in relationships with others, solve problems using effective methods, and think critically and independently.

Constant improvement of the educational program will focus on all students achieving the New Jersey Student Learning Standards at their respective grade levels. By providing essential resources and working with home and community, we will help students acquire the skills and knowledge they need to enter the work force or pursue higher education, and to become responsible global citizens.

Strategic Planning Goals

GOAL #1: Invest in our teachers. Value and promote a culture of teaching and learning excellence through increased and improved opportunities for quality, sustained professional development that address district needs and school needs as well as teacher needs and interests.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Create and utilize an efficient means for sharing best practices.
- 2) Create/restructure reporting procedures and tools that accurately reflect continuous student growth.
- 3) Increase job embedded professional learning opportunities including the utilization of the expertise of current personnel.
- 4) Provide a variety of opportunities for students to demonstrate the relevance and interconnectedness of their knowledge and skills.
- 5) Increase use of technology to personalize student-centered instruction.

GOAL #2: Gain and more effectively utilize educational space to create appropriate class sizes, expand programs and allow for more effective teacher instruction and student learning.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Effectively expand the use of Thomas Jefferson Early Learning Center.
- 2) Explore the realignment of grade levels to maximize space usage and efficiently utilize resources.
- 3) Explore the feasibility of creating a Middle School. Research best practices throughout the county for the purpose of developing an effective middle school model that meets the needs of the community.
- 4) Explore moving the Board Office back to 98 Central Avenue to maximize available classroom space in Lincoln School.

GOAL #3: Provide flexible and student-centered programs and course offerings to develop successful global learners.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Provide multiple pathways for students to postsecondary education programs and career opportunities.
- 2) Increase dual enrollment opportunities.
- 3) Develop and implement a K-12 comprehensive guidance program to address early career exploration, character education and provide student support.
- 4) Use data to investigate and assess the need for alternative programs, schedules, and delivery of instruction.

GOAL #4: Develop a communication system for distributing and receiving information between school administration, teachers, staff, students, parents, and the community.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Increase the amount and effectiveness of communication with all stakeholders.
- 2) Utilize emerging and available communications outlets to transmit information.
- 3) Upgrade infrastructure to support communications plan.
- 4) Continue to expand this into other schools. Conduct parent surveys to gauge preference and effectiveness.
- 5) Continue to enhance the information and resources provided on the website.
- 6) Inform stakeholders of their roles & responsibilities in that plan.

GOAL #5: Integrate current and emerging technologies to promote effective teaching and learning, curricula, programs, and communication.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Update infrastructure to support the effective use of technology in the district.
- 2) Provide Professional Development for practical technology use.
- 3) Increase use of technology to personalize student-centered instruction.
- 4) Focus on expanding the use of Google classroom.
- 5) Focus on digital citizenship.
- 6) Develop and incorporate blended and/or online learning opportunities for students.

GOAL #6: Identify, through the use of data, areas in the curriculum that need improvement and revision.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Successfully implement the Next Generation Science Standards in grades 6-12 while also focusing on revising Science curriculum in grades K-5 to reflect the NGSS.
- 2) Focus on Math revision.

GOAL #7: Create and maintain a fiscally sound operation that will alleviate financial pressures and ensure funds are used prudently, efficiently and are directed toward appropriate areas.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Evaluate all programs for necessity and efficiency.
- 2) Create clear budgetary timelines, guidelines and checks.
- 3) Involve district level administrators more in the budgetary process.
- 4) Explore additional shared services with Little Ferry to minimize expenses to both districts.
- 5) Implement an online system for producing and managing purchase orders.

GOAL #8: Create a sound plan to maintain school facilities.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Update the long range facilities plan to reflect current maintenance needs of the district's aging facilities.
- 2) Conduct thorough evaluations of all facilities to identify and prioritize areas of need.
- 3) Complete Clean Energy Audit to maximize savings on energy costs in district.
- 4) Explore the possibility of adding solar, and conducting an LED conversion for utility savings.