

COLLEGE, CAREER, and LIFE READY

Learning, Teaching, and Curriculum

Priorities Identified:

- Incorporate life skills in specific classes and across the curriculum. Skills include: financial literacy, family budgeting, retirement planning, career readiness (academic and skill based), college/job applications, resume building, interviewing, communication (written/oral), problem-solving, home skills (cooking, nutrition, basic repair, etc.) (53 votes)
- Design personalized pathways to maximize learning styles and interests. Develop course work and instructional strategies that are based on student learning styles and interests. (40 votes)
- Social/Emotional learning--life skills to be successful socially and emotionally. (19 votes)
- Earlier career exploration: shadowing, mentorships, interns, coordinate community experts to teach subject matter (15 votes)
- Focus on student-led discipline (7 votes)
- Utilize community based success measures or local standards for local priorities while embracing state standards. (3 votes)
- Incorporate service/community learning in curriculum. (1 vote)

Actions Taken:

- A Life Skills class has been added to the middle school exploratory course offerings beginning in the 2020-2021 school year. The course will focus on the home life skills of cooking, laundry, budgeting, etc.
- Thomas Murray's book, Personal and Authentic was studied by a group of teachers and administration. The lessons in the book center on designing experiences that are grounded in relationships and are learner-centered.
- Strategic hires of a PELC Associate Principal with a school counseling background and HS School Counselor with Substance Abuse Counseling expertise. The AP hire will provide a champion for the social-emotional learning programming at elementary level. At the high school level our counselor is equipped to provide support for students who are themselves suffering from substance abuse or are part of a family who experiencing substance abuse.
- Implementation of a social-emotional curriculum, Second Step in grades K-2. Second Step is a social-emotional program geared to provide students the tools to better manage their own emotions and build positive relationships. As a result they are better equipped to learn. Integration of the curriculum will continue through the all grades in the elementary school.

What is next?

- Hate Speech: the inclusion of specific prohibition of hate speech language in Board Policy and student handbooks. Our schools need to be free of all forms of harassment to become a welcoming environment.
- Redefining Ready (<https://www.redefiningready.org/>): a series of researched based indicators that will provide us a definition of what College, Career, and Life Ready is for our graduates. This "scorecard" goes beyond standardized test scores. The focus is on local metrics to define a graduates career, life, and college readiness. Examples of the metrics include community service, workplace learning experiences, industry credentials, co-curricular activities, and advanced placement/college accredited coursework.
- A school mental health committee has drafted indicators of a mentally healthy graduate.