

Luther Burbank Middle School
School Improvement Plan
2011-2013

The mission of the Luther Burbank Middle School is to educate each child to his or her fullest potential in a safe, caring environment and to create life-long learners who are responsible, contributing members of society.

The Vision of Our Future

The Luther Burbank Middle School's purpose is to build wisdom, knowledge, respect, responsibility and compassion by engaging the head, hands and heart of each student. Students will embrace the challenges that the school offers in order to achieve academically, artistically and athletically. A life-long curiosity, love of learning and willingness to take appropriate risks will be developed.

School Improvement Plan Focus Areas

- **Climate and Safety:** Luther Burbank Middle School will provide an environment where students feel physically and emotionally safe. This environment requires an acceptance of personal responsibility by all students.
- **Curriculum and Instruction:** A broad-based curriculum, aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks will provide students with equal opportunities and challenges. This curriculum requires recognition and accommodation of different learning styles, needs and abilities for life-long learning.
- **Parent Involvement and Communication:** A cooperative link will exist between home, school and community which recognizes that the education of our students is the responsibility of everyone in these three arenas.

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Curriculum and Instruction:

Goal: To improve academic performance by refining and varying instructional practices to best meet the individual needs of our students.

Objective 1: Establish an open response initiative.

| Activities | Responsibility | Measurement | Budget Impact | Evaluation |
|---|----------------|--|---------------|---|
| Professional Development will focus on constructing a proper answer to open response questions. | All Staff | All staff members will understand how to construct a proper open response. | None | Vertical team time was used by both ELA and math teachers to prepare a presentation for all staff at a monthly meeting. The purpose of the presentation was to ensure that all staff understood how to compose and evaluate an open response. As a result, the students' open response MCAS scores showed improvement for the 2011 tests. |
| Each grade level team will provide one period per cycle for instruction and support to identified students. | Academic Teams | Students will construct proper open responses. | None | Identified students included those whose previous scores were either slightly below or slightly above 240. The vast majority of students demonstrated significant improvement, with many reaching the targeted goal of Proficient. |

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Curriculum and Instruction:

Objective 2: Expand the use of technology to enhance learning.

| Activities | Responsibility | Measurement | Budget Impact | Evaluation |
|---|----------------|--|---------------|--|
| Incorporate the use of the Odyssey Program, Renzulli Learning, Google Docs, and Turning Point Technologies into regular instructional practice. | All Staff | By increasing efficiency and motivation, teaching and learning will be enhanced. | \$1,000 | The Odyssey Program, Renzulli Learning, and Turning Point Technologies have been used with a limited number of students. Despite some technical issues, Google Docs has been incorporated school wide into teaching and learning. In addition, staff uses this technology as a communication tool. |

Curriculum and Instruction:

Objective 3: Provide opportunities for innovative collaboration among teachers.

| Activities | | Measurement | Budget Impact | Evaluation |
|--|------------------|--|---------------|---|
| Establish and implement co-teaching models to address the needs of special education students. | Identified Staff | Increase direct service to special education students | None | Staff received training and ongoing support by educational consultants hired by the district. Six co-teaching models in various subject areas were implemented, providing additional daily support to special education students. |
| Provide vertical team time for both ELA and Math Teachers. | Principal | To improve coordination and communication among grade levels for each content area through the discussion of | None | Adjustments to the master schedule included an opportunity for both ELA and math teams to meet on alternating cycles. |

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| Activities | Measurement | Budget Impact | Evaluation |
|------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| | curriculum and instructional topics. | | |

Curriculum and Instruction:

Objective 4: Encourage reading throughout the summer.

| Activities | Responsibility | Measurement | Budget Impact | Evaluation |
|---|----------------|---|---------------|------------|
| **Students will choose from a list of books and will join a cross-grade level group with teacher facilitator in the fall (2012) | All Staff | To create a school wide culture that promotes the importance of reading, as studies have proven summer reading increases student achievement. | None | |

Climate and Safety

Goal: Develop a climate in which students and staff feel and demonstrate respect.

Objective 1: To help students improve their ability to effectively communicate with peers and adults.

| Activities | Responsibility | Measurement | Budget Impact | Evaluation |
|--|---|---|---------------|---|
| **To establish social intervention groups. | Counselor and Speech Language Pathologist | Students will gain skills and confidence in the areas of communication, managing emotions, problem solving, resolving conflict, and | None | Participating students have improved their ability to navigate social situations. |

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| Activities | Responsibility | Measurement | Budget Impact | Evaluation |
|------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| | | goal setting. | | |

Safety and Climate

Objective 2: Staff and students will be trained to identify, respond, and prevent incidents of bullying.

| Activities | Responsibility | Measurement | Budget Impact | Evaluation |
|--|---|---|---------------|--|
| Staff will be trained through the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center's Program. | Health Teacher | Staff will develop a deeper understanding of what is considered "bullying," and incorporate a common language to address incidents as they occur. | None | Staff is better equipped to deal with student conflicts before issues reach the "bullying" criteria as defined by state law. |
| Second Step and Teaching Tolerance curriculums will be used in health class. | Health Teacher | Students will develop strategies to deal with incidents of bullying. | None | All students in 6 th grade received instruction, including role playing and discussions. Students gained an understanding of bullies, victims, and bystanders. Students in 8 th grade viewed "Bullied" video. Each wrote a reflection and examined personal attitudes toward bullying. |
| A variety of lessons and activities will be taught focusing on Cyber-bullying. | Health and Library Media Teachers | Students will develop strategies to deal with incidents of cyber-bullying. | None | Students in all grade levels received age appropriate information and strategies to identify, prevent, and address issues of cyber-bullying. |
| SOS (Signs of Suicide) Survey given to 7 th grade students. | District Nurse Leader, Principal, and Staff | At risk students will be identified. | None | The program was presented to 7 th grade students in small groups. Based on the survey, seven (7) at risk students were identified and received the necessary intervention and support. |

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Safety and Climate

Objective 3: To improve the ability to communicate effectively with others.

| Activities | Responsibility | Measurement | Budget Impact | Evaluation |
|---|----------------|---|---------------|---|
| ***All staff will read <u>Crucial Conversations</u> with critical elements to be presented by small groups. | LBMS Staff | To provide staff with the necessary tools and skills to address sensitive issues as they arise. | \$400 | Various teachers presented research, case studies, and resources at staff meetings. |

Safety and Climate

Objective 4: To explore benefits of advisory programs.

| Activities | Responsibility | Measurement | Budget Impact | Evaluation |
|--|----------------|--|---------------|------------|
| **Several staff members participated in Developmental Design-The Advisory Book Group | LBMS Staff | Gather information and investigate the feasibility of implementing an advisory program | None | TBD |

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Parent Involvement and Communication:

Goal: To strengthen the partnership among the teachers, parents and students.

Objective 1: LBMS will incorporate 21st century skills and techniques to reach more parents.

| Activities | Responsibility | Measurement | Budget Impact | Evaluation |
|---|-----------------------|--|---------------|------------|
| Podcast/Videocast through school website. | Library Media Teacher | To improve the dissemination of school related information | \$1000 | TBD |

Parent Involvement and Communication:

Objective 2: To develop strategies to foster communication among teachers, parents and their children.

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|---------------------------------|--------------|---|-------|--|
| **Establish a parent book group | Julia Hutton | To expose parents to literature that will enhance skills and provide a forum to share thoughts, ideas, and experiences. | \$200 | At the 2012 “Meet and Greet” parents were informed of the opportunity to read <u>Parenting is a Contact Sport</u> , by Joanne Stern. |
|---------------------------------|--------------|---|-------|--|