

MSAD 53 Board of Directors Meeting

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Warsaw Middle School

August 25, 2009

Greetings from Warsaw Middle School!

It has been a busy summer at Warsaw!

Who's Who at Warsaw

We have many new faces at Warsaw Middle School

Curriculum Focus

Warsaw Middle School teachers were busy with summer school, Science Curriculum, Math Curriculum Review, Health Curriculum Review, Word Study work, and PLG Training with Jean Haeger. In addition K-8 staff participated in three day training in the hot days of August!

PLG's

Anne Miller has taken the lead in organizing and training K-8 Professional Learning Groups this summer for our work in the coming year. Jean Haeger of Great Schools Partnership has worked with the District Improvement Team and Administrators to develop the MSAD 53 Professional Learning Groups and this summer saw each PLG facilitator receive training in the PLG process.

The A Team is one of the PLG's, and we had our first PLG Meeting, along with the other k-8 groups on August 24. Tricia Alley is facilitating our A-Team PLG, and our first meeting of the school year was an excellent way to begin the year and our PLG's. Team building and reflection were Tricia's focal points of the time in our PLG.

Summer School at Warsaw

Warsaw summer School offered two strands: those students who were taking summer school because they failed two or more courses and those Title I students who needed extra help. Ron Rollins and Shannon Davis ran the Title I summer school, and Liz Anthony, and Richard Woodbury ran the summer school for those who were in danger of staying back. One student will be staying back due to parent decision and another due to missing too many days of summer school. It was really great to see several of our students who struggled with curriculum and effort working hard to avoid staying back and focus on improving effort for the coming year.

CIPS and the MEA's for 2008-2009

As the Board is well aware Warsaw Middle School was designated a Continuing Improvement Priority School a year ago, and this designation meant that we had failed to meet AYP on our MEA's in math. The two key subgroups that pulled our math scores down were Economically Disadvantaged and students with disabilities. Our school ---Vickery as well --- has a large percentage of students in these two categories that make it difficult for us to make AYP. This past year's test scores show progress in that we are in Safe Harbor in math which means that we have moved up in our scores enough to show improvement, but we are not out of the woods yet. Had we received the Safe Harbor designation last year, it would have meant that we would not have been identified as a CIPS school. Ironically, this year we made Safe Harbor, but the state did not (the State score is the average of all schools tested).

CIPS Plan for 2009-2010

Even with our improvement in MEA scores, we are still a CIPS school which means we still must develop a CIPS Plan for the 2009 - 2010 year. It also means that we will receive state funds to help us continue to raise our scores through workshops, math curriculum review and reinforcement, and targeted focus on math through our Skills Blocks, targeting testing strategies for the NECAP's, and a school-wide commitment to academic success. I would add that our experience in CIPS has benefited our school in that it has motivated the staff to work even harder in the work we do with our students.

Preparation for NECAP's

Out with the old; in with the new!