

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 and 2012 tests.
Each grade level team will provide one period per cycle for instruction, support, and enrichment to 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 Google Docs into regular instructional practice. Provide opportunities for teachers to explore and develop teacher sites on Google. Addition of a second cart of Chrome books (30 units)	All Staff	By increasing efficiency and motivation, teaching and learning will be enhanced.	\$3,500	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 aided greatly by the addition of 60 Chrome books to be shared between the three grade levels. In addition, staff uses this technology as a communication tool.

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Curriculum and Instruction:

Objective 3: Provide opportunities for collaboration among teachers to enhance student performance, curriculum continuity, and instructional practices.

Activities	Responsibility	Measurement	Budget Impact	Evaluation
Provide vertical team time for both ELA and math Teachers. Explore opportunities to broaden vertical team time to include science.	Principal	To improve coordination and communication among grade levels for each content area through the discussion of curriculum and instructional topics.	None	Adjustments to the master schedule included an opportunity for both ELA and math teams to meet on alternating cycles.
Increase special education staff to allow for one teacher at each grade level.	District	Special education students will demonstrate an increase in achievement. Special education teachers will become an integral part of each grade level team.	Based on Unit A salary scale	

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Curriculum and Instruction:

Objective 4: Encourage reading throughout the school year and into the summer.

Activities	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.	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.	Interventionist and Speech Language Pathologist	Students will gain skills and confidence in the areas of communication, managing emotions, problem solving, resolving conflict, and goal setting.	None	Participating students have improved their ability to navigate social situations throughout the 2011-12 school year.

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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 receive annual training based on the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center's Program.	Health Teacher	Staff will continue to 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.	School Staff and Community Presenters	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
Staff will continue to implement tenants of the structure of a crucial conversation as outlined in the book, <u>Crucial Conversations</u> .	LBMS Staff	Staff will utilize the necessary tools and skills to address sensitive issues as they arise.		Staff report engaging in crucial conversations utilizing information gained through reading, reflections, and training. Conversations have lead to positive conflict resolution.

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	Information and potential schedules have been presented to staff at two meetings during the 2012-13 school year.

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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
Unit A staff will develop individual websites	Building staff	Students and parents will have increased ability to access curriculum and other school information	N/A	TBD
Middlesex Partnership for Youth program scheduled for 2/27/13 (based on parent survey)	School Council	Parents will gain knowledge and awareness of social media and its potential impact on students	N/A	TBD

Parent Involvement and Communication:

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

**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	11 parents read the book, 4 attended the group. Very positive and supportive. Suggestion for future groups under discussion.
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