

Brookwood Jr. High School

School Improvement Plan

2011-2012

Brookwood Jr. High School's Mission Statement:

The mission of Brookwood Jr. High School is to provide each student a diverse education in a safe, supportive, and positive environment that promotes motivation and excellence in learning. We will assist students in developing skills to become independent, responsible adults who will contribute positively to a global community. We have high expectations for all of our students and will not accept failure as an option. We will ensure that all students are in academically rigorous classes staffed by highly qualified teachers. Our teachers will work collaboratively as a professional learning community to help all of our students experience success. We understand the need for our students to have positive connections to school and positive relationships with their peers and teachers, so we will provide every student many opportunities to participate in extra-curricular programs with the understanding that all students will be able to participate, there will be no cuts or try-outs. The BJHS team is committed to involving families as partners in the education of their children. We welcome families, keep them well informed, help them develop their expectations and skills to support learning, and assure their participation in decision-making.

Vision:

Our overall vision is to improve the achievement of all students, regardless of race, socio-economic status, gender, or ability levels (disabilities). We share the accountability of student achievement throughout the school. We believe in using research-based practices to achieve our goals. We promote school and community involvement because we believe that these partnerships help us meet the needs of all of our students. We are committed to 1) providing students with highly qualified teachers 2) providing our staff with professional development 3) implementing effective instructional activities based on research. We have high expectations of our students and of ourselves. We believe in working together as a professional learning community where collaboration and shared decision-making are valued. Together we believe that we will make continuous improvement.

Our building is committed to answering the following four essential questions:

1. What do we want students to learn?
(Identify Essential Skills and Knowledge)
2. How will we know if they have learned?
(Local Assessment Data and Benchmarks)
3. What do we do when students are not learning?
(Tier 2 and Tier 3 Interventions and Tutoring Sessions)
4. How will we respond when students already know the material/skills
(providing a rigorous curriculum for all students)

Profile:

- Brookwood Jr. High School's enrollment includes students in seventh and eighth grade. We currently have 257 students enrolled.

- Mobility rate 19.4%

- Attendance Rate: 94.2%

- Low-Income Rate: 70%

- The average class size in seventh grade is 22 students.

- The average class size in eighth grade is 24 students.

- Racial/Ethnic Background of Students:

- Black: 79%

- Hispanic: 15 %

- White: 5 %

- Asian/Pacific Islander: 1 %

- Native American 0 %

- Staff development is provided to address poverty, diversity, and instructional delivery systems that are responsive to the needs of our students. Staffing trends have focused on developing/maintaining diversity among the teaching staff.

Curriculum and Instruction: All of our curricula are aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards. We will be working on the alignment to the Common Core Standards during the course of this school year. Teachers at our school are members of various district wide curriculum committees. These curriculum committees meet regularly to review and revise curriculum.

- Reading Committee

- Writing Committee

- Math Committee

- Science Committee
- Technology Committee
- Explore/Gifted Committee
- ELL Committee
- Crisis Committee
- Risk Watch Committee
- Human Growth and Development Committee
- Social Studies Committee

Additionally, all teachers use the following instructional strategies to promote higher levels of achievement and critical thinking skills:

- Differentiated Instruction
- Problem Based Learning
- Guided Reading
- Response to Intervention (progress monitoring and strategic monitoring of students)

Professional Development: We believe in providing our teachers with ongoing professional development and support.

We offer:

- In-district workshops on technology integration, reading instruction, math instruction, RtI, PBIS, multiple intelligences, differentiated instruction, inquiry-based science strategies and writing.
- District supported workshops/conferences outside of school
- Graduate Coursework
- Team Meetings
- Mentoring Program through Governors State University

Family and Community Involvement: All teachers at Brookwood Jr. High School use TeacherEase, an on-line grading program. Teachers update the progress of students weekly. Parents can check, on-line, their child's progress on a daily basis. Parents are also invited to attend all inservice days and Parent/Teacher Conferences. Workshops are planned for parents to help them develop strategies to help their child. Our Volunteer Coordinator works with teachers, administrators and parents to foster parent involvement in the school environment.

Commitment to a Safe School Environment: Brookwood Jr. High School has a strong commitment to student safety. Our school-wide plan includes the following programs to promote safety:

- Bullying Curriculum
- Suicide Prevention Training
- Sexual Harassment Training
- Peer Mediation Training and Implementation
- PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports)
- Risk Watch Safety Activities
- Social Worker Supports

Reading

Present condition/status:

In 2010-2011 school year 67.9% of our students met or exceeded the state benchmarks in Reading.

Goal 1: To increase our student performance levels by at least 10% or so that 92.5% of our students will meet or exceed state benchmarks in Reading

Goal 2: To ensure that ALL students show academic growth in Reading achievement

Reading			
Teacher Instruction and Assessment			
Action Steps (Activity)	Person(s) Responsible	Timeline	Evidence
All students will be assessed using the Phonics Screener for Intervention (PSI) to determine intervention groups and instructional strategies	Brookwood School District 167 Assessment Team and Reading Teachers	August 22- August 26, 2011	Data (student scores)
All students will receive phonics instruction during reading class (95% group training utilized)	All reading teachers	Ongoing	Classroom Walkthroughs by Administrators lesson plans
Teachers will conduct ongoing, formative assessments to guide instruction and provide support to students	All Reading teachers	Ongoing	Articulation sessions/data review sheets from formative assessments
Perform benchmark assessments using AIMSweb	Intervention Team	3 Times During the Year (September, January, & April/May)	AIMSweb Data Charts

Action Steps (Activity)	Person(s) Responsible	Timeline	Evidence
Perform benchmark assessments in writing 3 times per year (2 in content areas)	All Reading and Content Area Teachers	3 Times During the Year (Aug/Sept., January, and April/May) and 2 times for Content area teachers	writing portfolios spreadsheet that shows students' performance levels
Teachers will implement and model comprehension strategies (predicting, summarizing, connecting, questioning, inferring and imaging) utilizing the training received by Gretchen Courtney and Associates	All reading and content area teachers	Ongoing	Classroom Walkthroughs by Administrators lesson plans
To communicate the Common Core State Standards with students	All reading teachers	Ongoing	On display in classroom
Teachers will create and implement rubrics for assessing student work using a research based, on line tool (<i>rubistar</i>)	All reading teachers	Ongoing	lesson plans

Professional Development & Professional Learning Communities			
Action Steps (Activity)	Person(s) Responsible	Timeline	Evidence
Reading staff development will be provided to teachers such as the Harvest Literacy Conference, various trainings during institute days and other opportunities announced during the year	All reading and content area teachers	Ongoing	Conference summary reports Sharing during team articulation session
Provide a professional resource for teachers that provides tips and research based strategies : Better Teaching Publication/Subscription	All Teachers	Ongoing	sharing at articulation sessions lesson plans classroom walkthroughs
Teachers will receive on-site professional development on using technology as a tool to enhance learning	Technology Director	Ongoing	sign in sheets from sessions sharing at articulation meetings

Action Steps (Activity)	Person(s) Responsible	Timeline	Evidence
Reading Teachers will receive on-site support and staff development on using the 95% Group reading materials	Principal and Brookwood School District 167 Admin. Team	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sign in sheets •Lesson plans •Classroom walk throughs

Student Supports			
Action Steps (Activity)	Person(s) Responsible	Timeline	Evidence
Students will be able to access from home or at school, an online, standards-based assessment, instruction, practice, and test preparation software program to enhance learning (Study Island)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Principal •Media Director •Tutoring Supervisors 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •logins and passwords distributed at parent teacher conference •monthly reports from study island regarding student progress/use
Provide students with literacy rich learning environments that motivate and inspire reading	Principal	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •classroom libraries
Provide students with targeted interventions to improve achievement	Intervention Team	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Progress monitoring and strategic monitoring data
The social worker and psychologist will create special academic support groups to help struggling students achieve success	Social Worker and Psychologist	ONGOING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Group logs kept
Provide students with additional help and support to increase their achievement before school, during lunch and after school (tutoring program)	Principal Assistant Principal Tutoring Sponsors	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •sign in sheets
Provide special needs students with targeted support and services to improve achievement levels	Special Education and PPS Staff	Ongoing Special Education Collaboration Meetings held Monthly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Minutes and implementation of supports and services

Parent Involvement/Education			
Action Steps (Activity)	Person(s) Responsible	Timeline	Evidence
Provide families with tips they can use to help students do better in school: Helping Students Learn (monthly newsletter to parents)	Principal	Monthly	Attachment in monthly principal newsletter
Promote parent visitation and observations in classrooms	Principal and Assistant Principal	Ongoing	•sign in logs
Provide a special program at Parent Visitation Day on November 17, 2011 that focuses on helping students at home with reading	Principal	November 17 2011	•Agenda and sign in sheet
Promote participation at Open House and Parent Teacher Conferences	Principal	Sept. 6, 2011 Oct. 20, 2011 Feb. 16, 2012	Sign in sheets
Promote parent participation for special school activities/events	Principal Assistant Principal Social Worker	Ongoing	Sign in sheets
Promote parent participation in student support conferences at the onset of a challenge or concern	Principal Assistant Principal Social Worker	Ongoing	Sign in sheets

Mathematics

Present condition/status:

In 2010-2011 school year 73.8% of our students met or exceeded the state benchmarks in Mathematics.

Goal 1: To increase our student performance levels by 10% or so that 92.5% of our students will meet or exceed state benchmarks in Mathematics

Goal 2: To ensure that ALL students show academic growth in Mathematics achievement

Mathematics			
Teacher Instruction and Assessment			
Action Steps (Activity)	Person(s) Responsible	Timeline	Evidence
Perform benchmark assessments using AIMSweb	Intervention Leadership Team	3 Times During the Year (September, January, and May)	AIMSweb Data Charts
Provide math interventions for students during the school day		Ongoing	Progress monitoring and strategic monitoring data AIMSweb profile growth charts
Teachers will use manipulatives to teach abstract math concepts	Math teachers	Ongoing	Classroom walkthroughs, observations and lesson plans
To communicate the Common Core State Standards with students	All math teachers	Ongoing	On display in classroom
Teachers will follow the scope and sequence of the HF algebra curriculum	Algebra teachers	Ongoing	Lesson plans
Teachers will conduct ongoing, formative assessments to guide instruction and provide support to students	All math teachers	Ongoing	Articulation sessions/data review sheets from formative assessments
Teachers will create and implement rubrics for assessing student work using a research based, on line tool (<i>rubistar</i>)	All math teachers	Ongoing	lesson plans

Professional Development & Professional Learning Communities			
Action Steps (Activity)	Person(s) Responsible	Timeline	Evidence
NCTM Memberships	Math teachers	Ongoing (annual membership)	Certificate of membership and materials used to share during articulation and planning sessions
Math staff development will be provided to teachers – Conference, various trainings during institute days and other opportunities announced during the year	All teachers	Ongoing	Conference summary reports Sharing during team articulation session
Provide an instructional resource to teachers that demonstrates 49 techniques that put students on the path to college (<i>Teach Like a Champion</i> , by Doug Lemov)	All core curricular teachers	Ongoing	classroom walkthroughs and observations
Teachers will receive on-site professional development on using technology as a tool to enhance learning	Technology Director	Ongoing	sign in sheets from sessions sharing at articulation meetings
Teachers will be able to collaborate and engage in interdisciplinary teaming via Google Docs	All teachers	Ongoing (weekly)	Lesson plans posted on Google Docs and shared
Provide a professional resource for teachers that provides tips and research based strategies : Better Teaching Publication/Subscription	All Teachers	Ongoing	sharing at articulation sessions lesson plans classroom walkthroughs

Student Supports			
Action Steps (Activity)	Person(s) Responsible	Timeline	Evidence
Students will be able to access from home or at school, an online, standards-based assessment, instruction, practice, and test preparation software program to enhance learning (Study Island)	Principal Media Director Technology Director Tutoring Supervisors	Ongoing	logins and passwords distributed at parent teacher conference monthly reports from study island regarding student progress/use
The social worker and psychologist will create special academic support groups to help struggling students achieve success	Social Worker and Psychologist	ONGOING	Group logs kept
Provide students with targeted interventions to improve achievement	Intervention Team	Ongoing	Progress monitoring and strategic monitoring data
Provide special needs students with targeted support and services to improve achievement levels	Special Education and PPS Staff	Ongoing Special Education Collaboration Meetings held Monthly	Minutes and implementation of supports and services
Provide students with additional help and support to increase their achievement before school, during lunch and after school (tutoring program)	Principal Assistant Principal Tutoring Sponsors	Ongoing	sign in sheets

Parent Involvement/Education			
Action Steps (Activity)	Person(s) Responsible	Timeline	Evidence
Provide families with tips they can use to help students do better in school: Helping Students Learn (monthly newsletter to parents)	Principal	Monthly	Attachment in monthly principal newsletter
Promote parent visitation and observations in classrooms	Principal and Assistant Principal	Ongoing	Sign in logs
Provide a special program at Parent Visitation Day on November 17, 2011 that focuses on helping students at home with math	Principal	November 17, 2011	Agenda and sign in sheet
Encourage parent attendance at Parent Teacher Conferences and Report Card Pick up Day	Principal	October 20, 2011 January 13, 2012 February 16, 2012 March 23, 2012	Sign in sheets and evaluations
Promote parent participation in student support conferences at the onset of a challenge or concern	Principal Assistant Principal Social Worker	Ongoing	Sign in sheets