

Mission and Expectations for Student Learning

Commendations

1. Involving 9th and 10th grade students in knowing and evaluating the mission through the advisory program
2. Participation in and the development and promoting of the mission and expectations for student learning by school committee, teachers, some students, administrators, and some parents
3. Posting expectation in all areas of the school
4. Development of school-wide rubrics to measure student success in achieving the school's academic expectations.

Recommendations

1. Involve students in the refinement and development of the mission statement and its assessment to provide student ownership of the mission and expectations for learning.
2. Implement school-wide rubrics across disciplines
3. Review the mission periodically and formally at all levels (student, faculty, parents), collect substantial data, and analyze it on an ongoing basis
4. Develop and implement a more formal way of getting parental input when reviewing the mission and expectations document

Curriculum

Commendations

1. The curriculum action plan
2. The work of the district curriculum council before it lost funding
3. The many and varied offering for all students
4. The rich variety of extra-curricular activities for students
5. The Connections program
6. The state-of-the-art television studio and the computer aided design lab that supports learning at the school level

Recommendations

1. Write curriculum documents that are aligned with the academic expectations in the mission and that guide content, instruction, and assessment practices for all courses
2. Provide adequate leadership for the development, review, coordination, and articulation of curriculum
3. Provide professional development, resource sharing, and common time to ensure the implementation of the curriculum action plan and the coordination between and among department and grade levels
4. Collect and analyze school-based assessments of student achievement of expectations for student learning using school-wide rubrics to provide data for curriculum revision
5. Review and coordinate curriculum district-wide
6. Provide a leadership representative to coordinate curriculum design in the applied and fine arts, physical education, technology education, and library information services
7. Implement a process to design and write curriculum in every discipline area and review those on a regular basis

Instruction

Commendations

1. Strategies and instructional practices in many subject areas are varied and used to connect the school's mission and expectation to student learning
2. The efforts to make connections between classroom learning and real life experience
3. The frequent use of technology to support classroom instruction
4. Feedback between students and teachers is often used to enhance learning
5. Those teachers who are exemplary in their course design, student involvement, differentiated instruction techniques, individualized assessment (including authentic assessment and portfolio) and high expectation for all students
6. The in formal sharing among teachers of effective classroom practices

Recommendations

1. Develop and implement a plan to provide faculty members with more formal opportunities to share instructional practices
2. Provide adequate funding for implementation of professional development
3. Initiate and implement a plan for formal opportunities for staff members to facilitate connections between disciplines
4. Coordinate the staff evaluation process to insure all members receive equitable evaluation
5. Provide adequate resources to implement the existing mentoring program

Assessment of Student Learning

Commendations

1. MCAS test scores are reviewed and lead to specific plans to develop strategies to improve curriculum and student learning
2. The use of a wide variety of classroom assessment strategies by the majority of the staff providing student with the ability to choose methods of demonstrating and understanding their knowledge
3. The use of MCAS data to improve instruction
4. The effective communication of student progress from the school to parents

Recommendations

1. Provide more time in the school schedule for teachers to collaborate about student work and assessment strategies.
2. Create a universal rubric for civic and social expectations, regularly analyze and report the findings of this assessment tool.
3. Develop performance indicators for the civic and social expectations in the mission.
4. Expand the advisory program to include an assessment component that evaluates student progress toward achieving the learning expectations over time.
5. Expand the use of rubrics and other grading criteria throughout the curriculum.
6. Provide professional development on varying assessment techniques.
7. Provide more opportunities for students to engage in self-assessment.

Leadership and Organization

Commendations

1. Teacher involvement as advisors in the substantial number of extracurricular offerings
2. The advisory program for grades nine and ten linking students to the school's mission and expectations
3. The principal's use of a collaborative decision-making process resulting in a sense of active involvement by faculty members and students
4. The public recognition of student success in classrooms, hallway displays, and ceremonies
5. The positive school culture created by the faculty and administration and embraced by the student body

Recommendations

1. Ensure the daily schedule of the school supports student learning and is designed to provide the most effective implementation of curriculum and instruction
2. Provide time for teachers to collaborate within and across departments
3. Provide staff development to maximize the effectiveness of new programs and initiatives
4. Examine the current department head structure to more effectively align the elective curriculum areas
5. Develop, provide resources for, and implement a comprehensive professional development plan

School Resources for Learning

Commendations

1. Numerous opportunities exist for students to be involved in a wide range of curricular and co-curricular activities

2. The ninth and tenth grade advisory program creates a supportive and caring atmosphere which fosters close relationships between staff and students
3. The library/information services program
4. The cooperation between school resources and community resources
5. The use of the library as a supplementary site for classes

Recommendations

1. Ensure adequate and continuous funding for the advisory program as well as other initiatives that meet the school's mission
2. Expand the advisory program to include the entire school
3. Include the support personnel in curriculum evaluation and revision
4. Implement a process by which the library is available and adequately supervised for the entire school day and before and after school.
5. Expand the library collection to meet changing student and curricular needs
6. Institute a network security plan

Community Resources for Learning

Commendations

1. A significantly renovated facility provides an environment that is supportive of the school's curriculum and programs
2. The many partnerships that support student learning
3. The commitment of the community to pursue and follow through with facility improvement
4. A budget process that actively involves building administrators and faculty

Recommendations

1. Create and implement a long-range maintenance and capital improvement plan
2. Create and implement a long-range technology plan that provides for future purchase, maintenance, and repair of technology
3. Investigate and implement strategies that will increase parent involvement