

International School
Bellevue School District
Annual School Improvement Plan
2008-2009

International school has a school improvement plan for this year that is based on student data, specifically the data that indicates that some students have the ability to perform academically at higher levels.

Our specific goals and action plan for this year support the goals of

- Washington State's basic education law, which is to provide students with opportunities to develop knowledge to read with comprehension, write with skill and communicate effectively; know and apply principles of math, science, social studies, arts, health, fitness; think analytically, form reasoned judgments and solve problems; and understand the importance of work and how performance affects future career opportunities;
- Continuous improvement of student achievement consistent with the state's essential academic learning requirements; and
- Non-academic student learning related to leadership, public speaking, teamwork and interpersonal relationship.

Goal 1: Improve instructional practices and support systems to increase the academic performance of all International School students, especially struggling students. Our goal is for all students to perform at 80% or better in all of their classes at International School.

Actions:

1. Identify struggling students and develop additional resources to improve their academic performance. Criteria used to identify struggling students include: grades, WASL scores, and district assessments.
2. Provide professional development for staff during LID and Staff Meetings focused on how to read and interpret and IEP, ways to implement accommodations, and how to use modifications to increase student demonstration of mastery.
3. International School is in the fourth year of implementing the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Program at the middle school level. Ten staff members have attended a week-long AVID training. These ten staff members are members of the AVID Site Team. Michelle Hood is the coordinators of the AVID program at International School.
4. The AVID Site Team is working with all of the staff to implement best practices for supporting student learning school wide. For example, during the Learning Improvement Day Workshops, the staff agreed to use Cornell Notes across all disciplines and all grade levels. The staff has also agreed to post assignments in a common format in all middle school classes.
5. Staff members have attended or will attend workshops focused on improving instructional practices and increasing student learning. For example, teachers are

- participating in the development and analysis of common assessments, four teachers are pursuing National Board Certification, and others are attending professional development offerings such as Great Books and RTI Leadership and Coaching.
6. An after school math support class has been funded by our PTSA. We are inviting middle school students who have not met standard in math to participate in this support class.
 7. The Bellevue Schools Foundation has provided a grant to keep the school library open until 5:00 PM 3 days a week for student studying and support.

Goal 2: To increase learning and support resources and services at International School.

Actions:

1. This year there is one AVID elective course serving 29 seventh and eighth graders.
2. A Sixth Grade Transition Program has been established to assist sixth grade students with meeting academic goals and the social challenges/changes the face entering middle school. The program is currently serving almost twenty students.
3. Nancy Foster has taken on a leadership role in the library as the Library Media Specialist.
4. The International School PTSA has made it a high priority to support the development of a stronger library program.
5. The PTSA has provided funding to staff the library and/or computer lab during break, lunch, and after school. They are also providing funding to support staffing in the library as well.
6. This year our Safe and Civil School Committee has implemented several lessons that address the needs of new students in our school. In addition, the committee is developing several videos that will be shared with the student body on topics like: appropriate and safe parking lot protocol, and developing respect and responsibility as themes within our school.

The plan is based on our building's annual self review, which includes input from staff, parents, and students.

We have evidence, based on staff surveys and our own monitoring, as well as on required school district practices, that our school operates on the following characteristics of high-performing schools:

- clear and shared focus
- high standards and expectations
- effective school leadership
- supportive learning environment
- high levels of community and parent involvement
- frequent monitoring of teaching and learning
- focused professional development

Technology and Learning:

As a school district, we use computers as tools to support student learning, in the same way we use lab equipment, graphing calculators, or library resources. In addition, in some of our technical courses, technology is a subject worthy of study on its own, for example, in computer essentials, web design and computer networking.

Our school has two computer labs for use by subject area classes such as art, health, math, science, English. In these classes computers are used primarily for word processing and internet research. In addition, there are computers in each classroom. The current ratio of computers to students is 1:3.

We now have six classroom sets of Senteo “Clicker” response systems for student assessment. Teachers are using these systems to receive instant feedback on student learning and to modify lessons to best meet student needs. Professional development is also being provided for teachers in this area.

Parent and Community Involvement:

Examples of parent and community involvement that support student learning in our school include: The Program Delivery Council (PDC), PTSA, Senior Project Mentors, and VIBES mentors and tutors.