

Cunniff School Improvement Plan 2018-2019



Grade two students at Cunniff participate in a unit focusing on interpreting music through art. This is the result of a collaboration between the art teacher(Mrs. Lucas), the music teacher (Ms. Ward) and the grade two team.

Watertown Public Schools

Vision for the Watertown Public Schools

The Watertown Public Schools promote high achievement through inquiry, problem solving, collaboration, creativity, and hard work. We provide students with a robust education so they will acquire, apply, and practice knowledge and skills needed for lifelong learning. All programs support diverse learning styles, civic interaction, global awareness, and personal success.

Theory of Action

If we commit to provide ALL students with a rigorous standards-based curriculum that engages students through relevant content and inclusive instructional practices; to communicate effectively with the community; and to create systems of support that utilize district resources effectively; then the outcomes for ALL WPS students in ALL classrooms will improve.

School Description: The Cunniff School is located in the west end of Watertown on 246 Warren Street. There are approximately 300 PreKindergarten through grade five students at Cunniff. The Cunniff was built in 1953 and was the first complete building to be constructed in the town's postwar construction program. Named after Judge Cunniff, the school community was defined by its dedication to the education of its students. To this day, the Cunniff is supported by a strong and active community of faculty, staff, parents, guardians and students.

School Vision, Mission, Core Values: The Cunniff School provides a supportive and challenging learning environment that maximizes student achievement, encourages social responsibility, and supports lifelong learning for all Cunniff community members.

School Site Council Members: Parents: Pete Caron - Chair, Thomas Beggan, Brandt Brisson, Jessica Middlebrook, Kellie Spillane (parent) Teachers: Olivia Cifrino, Janelle Lacy, Christine Rono, Helda Shirinian, and Mena Ciarlone (Principal)

General review of the process that was used by the School Site Council to determine the School Improvement Plan goals along with a general sense of the data that were considered:

The School Site Council met monthly during the 2017-18 academic year. The Council reviewed the existing School Improvement Plan and learned about the District's vision, standards-aligned curriculum, and the professional development program. Additionally, they received an overview of the efforts in place to finalize a standards-based report card and to add a social emotional program (Responsive Classroom) at the elementary level, beginning in September. The Council also brainstormed ideas for school improvement and these included extending the home/school partnership and planning events reflective of the School's diversity.

WPS Strategic Objective #1	Provide all students with a rigorous, relevant, standards-based curriculum throughout our core instructional program
SIP Objective #1	Support school-based efforts that ensure all students are provided with a rigorous, relevant, standards-based curriculum in our core instructional practices

Action Plan/Improvement Strategies	Person(s) responsible for Implementation	Timeline	Outcomes and Measurement	Resources Needed
Implement the Standards-Based Report Card and the iReady Assessment Tool	Teachers Curriculum Coordinators	2018-2019 school year	Reporting of student progress will be based on meeting the standard.	Standards-Based Report Card Professional Development
Continue to refine alignment of curriculum by identifying areas where gaps currently exist	Teachers Curriculum Coordinators Principal	June 2018 - June 2019	Meaningful progress will be reported in the standards-based report card that will align with the standards-based curriculum taught each term. Improvement in student growth percentile (MCAS).	Targeted Professional Development
Develop a school-wide schedule, which is based upon structured learning time for core subjects i.e readers' workshop, writers' workshop, mathematics etc.,	Principal Teachers	2018-2019 school year	At each grade level, the push-in model will support access to core instruction for all students.	Assign faculty to grade level teams, disseminate school-wide schedule
Support co-teaching practices which enable teachers to plan instruction that is a match to student needs	Principal Faculty	2018-2019 school year	Grade level teams will share in the responsibility to teach all students Each student will receive instruction which is a match to his/her needs.	Common Preparation Time Common Planning Time

Through classroom observation and focusing on power indicators that target effective teaching practices, analyze teaching based upon student results.	Principal Curriculum Coordinators	2018-2019 school year	Classroom observation focus will result in conversations analyzing teaching for student results.	TeachPoint Evaluation Cycle
Collect, analyze and use data to inform instruction, instructional groups, and to determine the effectiveness and pacing of lessons/units being taught.	Principal Curriculum Coordinator Teachers	2018-2019 school year	Targeted standards-based tiered instruction will be provided for all students.	Data Grids Standards-Based Report Card Professional Development Planning Time, Preparation Time
Support teaching partnerships including Teaching and Learning Alliance, literacy coaches and TLA teacher leaders	Principal Curriculum Coordinator	2018-2019 school year	Grade level teams will make effective use of instructional blocks of time utilizing best practices for delivering standards-aligned lessons.	Planning Time Professional Development
Support best practices in mathematics by encouraging relationships between teachers, math teacher leaders and math coaches.	Principal Math Coaches Teachers	2018-2019 school year	A 5% increase in math assessment scores will be noted.	Planning Time Preparation Time

WPS Strategic Objective #2	Increase student engagement, agency, and authorship over their own learning in an inclusive educational community
SIP Objective #2	Support and reinforce school-wide best practices where students are challenged and inspired to put forth their best efforts as lifelong learners in an inclusive, educational community

Action Plan/Improvement Strategies	Person(s) responsible for Implementation	Timeline	Outcomes and Measurement	Resources Needed
Year 1 implementation of Responsive Classroom Curriculum	Classroom Teachers Faculty Staff	2018-2019 school year	100 % of teachers will participate in Responsive Classroom Training. An increase in strategies for helping students to develop and build social and academic competencies will result.	Responsive Classroom curriculum Responsive Classroom Curriculum Professional Development Daily Morning Meeting Time
Celebrate student success through the <i>You make a difference! Program</i>	Principal Faculty	2018-2019 school year	Seven students consisting of one from each grade PK-5, will be selected and recognized to receive this honor each month .	Collaboration of Faculty <i>You Make a Difference!</i> Trophies
Continue the Reading Buddies Program in order to support fluency and appreciation for reading	Project Leader Principal Students in grades 1,2,4 and 5	2018-2019 school year	First and second grade students will partner with a fourth or fifth grade buddy who will provide fluency-building practice before school - once weekly. First and second graders will show an increase in confidence regarding ability to read aloud.	Project Leader Fourth and Fifth Grade Student Volunteers

Increase the Community Service Program to 80% participation	Behavior Specialist Guidance Counselor Principal Faculty	2018-2019 school year	Students at Cunniff will understand the importance of and feel the reward of “giving back” to the community . As a result, Increased participation in the Community Service Program will occur.	Community Service Program, Sponsors and Forms
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WPS Strategic Objective #3	Ensure effective communication among families, students, staff, and the greater community to increase student learning
SIP Objective #3	Broaden the partnership among Cunniff community members through consistent and ongoing communication regarding teaching and learning

Action Plan/Improvement Strategies	Person(s) responsible for Implementation	Timeline	Outcomes and Measurement	Resources Needed
Continue with monthly Principal’s Coffee gatherings with families	Principal	2018-2019 school year	In order to support parents outside of school, focused Principal’s Coffee gatherings, will reinforce best practices which impact home and school.	Guest Speaker From Faculty
Issue Principal’s newsletter weekly	Principal Faculty	weekly and as needed throughout the school year	Parents will appreciate and value the home and school link and will be provided with weekly updates for planning purposes.	SchoolMessenger Cunniff School Website
Regularly Update Cunniff School website so that it reflects the life of the school	principal	weekly and as needed throughout the school year	Visitors to the website will be able to use it as a resource for Cunniff.	Cunniff School Website

Host Cunniff International Fair (Year 3)	International Fair planning Committee of Parents and Faculty	May 2019	The gathering will be used to celebrate the rich diversity in our community. Greater appreciation for diversity will result.	International Displays Representing the Cunniff Community
Provide school-wide opportunities for parents to volunteer in the classroom or in general areas such as library and cafe	Principal Faculty	2018-19 school year	Parents will have greater opportunities to make contributions regarding teaching and learning in our school i.e. volunteer in library, cafe, xeroxing and lamination.	Development of Volunteer Calendar for 2018-19 School Year
Host core curriculum evenings focusing on literacy, math, and social-emotional learning	Principal Curriculum Coordinators Faculty	2018-19 school year	Parents will gain a deeper understanding regarding reading, math and social-emotional learning thereby strengthening the support provided to students outside of school.	Grant Writing to Fund Faculty Attendance
Host summer reading initiative partnering with the Watertown Free Public Library	Reading Specialists Faculty Principal	summer 2018- summer 2019	The regression rate between spring and fall benchmarks will show a decline. Increase in frequency of Cunniff students visiting the WFPL and checking out books to read.	Summer Reading Campaign

WPS Strategic Objective #4	Establish effective systems of support and allocate resources to maximize organizational success
SIP Objective #4	Create a system of continuous improvement across all stakeholders.

Action Plan/Improvement Strategies	Person(s) responsible for Implementation	Timeline	Outcomes and Measurement	Resources Needed
Set agenda focused on supporting skillful teaching for student results at: monthly team meetings with grade level teams faculty meetings building-based meetings	Principal	2018-19 school year	Rigorous standards-based instruction will be provided for all students.	Scheduled Time
Continue with "open door" policy	Principal	2018-19 school year	Faculty, staff, parents and students will feel supported.	Time Built in to Principal's Calendar
Revisit key themes that are presented at professional development in order to increase the value throughout the school year	Principal	2018-19 school year	Faculty will value the link between professional development and quality teaching.	Professional Development Calendar
Include PTO, SSC and attend scheduled meetings	Principal	2018-19 school year	A strong Cunniff community partnership will exist.	Time Built in to Principal's Calendar