



District Goal - Achievement:

Morton District 709 will nurture and challenge each student to reach his/her greatest potential through evidence-based instructional practices and the highest quality of instruction, curriculum, programs, and services.

Update on Morton Moving Forward progress -

Strategy 1 - Systemic Focus on Reading

Implement Readers Workshop and Implement the Use of Literacy Coaches at each of the elementary schools Our principals and teachers have shared positive feedback regarding Readers Workshop implementation. Learning new strategies is hard work, and you have been up to this challenge. We continue our work in this area and want to know how we can continue to support you as we help our students become better readers!

Implement Full Day Kindergarten – Our kindergarten teachers have reported progress in student academic development and transition skills. This is attributed to the opportunity to improve the pacing of academic and social development issues. Kindergarten teachers have noted that student progress has accelerated due to the increased time and attention teachers are able to devote to each student.

Strategy 2- Intentional Transition to Secondary

Develop and implement JHS schedule that increases core instructional time and enhancement opportunities - We have a robust proposal from the Jr. High School on how to simultaneously improve transition to the high school and student performance in key academic areas of Math and ELA. This proposal is supported by a new leadership framework, reduced student - counselor ratio, and an instructional coach. The proposal was developed collaboratively with teachers and will move our Jr. High students to the front of the pack in terms of academic preparation, student support, and transitioning. The schedule has been presented to our Board as a discussion item.

Develop plan for departmentalization at the 5th and 6th grades - Conversations around 5th and 6th grade departmentalization have been challenging in large part due to our grade level

structure. The logistics of departmentalization make this a complicated task when you consider the current length of school day and special schedules across K-6. While we are continuing to move toward a proposal, flexibility will be critical to achieve our goals. We continue efforts to address academic rigor and meaningful transition behaviors needed for Jr. High School and High School students.

Strategy 3- Redefine College and Career Readiness

Reduce counselor/student ratio for greater guidance of HS students toward

post-secondary options - The MHS Counseling Department has been able to improve its responsiveness to student and parent needs. Several services have been added as a result, including counselor/parent coffees, a counseling department newsletter, electronic transcripts, and social/emotional group supports. Student Activities now has a stronger identity and hopefully will increase student participation through extra-curricular opportunities. We will be reviewing data regarding student involvement this spring to track our progress.

Increase certification programs that align with area workforce shortage needs and

Increase opportunities for college credit for all students - Counselors, teachers, and administrators have worked to identify certificate programs with the potential to help students secure employment after graduation in the areas of automotive and manufacturing. Business partnerships are being developed in those areas as well, which has led to additional support. The team working on this at MHS has been seeking equipment donations essential for these programs. These programs not only address student needs, but also regional workforce shortage areas. In addition to the certificate programs being developed, new AP and dual credit courses are being proposed as additions to the curriculum for next year. One class being discussed is AP Computer Programming, and another, Human Anatomy and Physiology, is being considered as a new course for the 2020-21 school year as a dual credit course. Auto 110 is also being considered for next year and would be dual credit.

Strategy 4 - Organize and Invest in Professional Learning -

Improve opportunities for professional learning - Teachers and administrators have been working diligently to provide meaningful professional learning opportunities that have been critical to professional development. Each school has used the time to advance actions in Morton Moving Forward, and as a result there has been considerable progress. In addition, instructional and literacy coaches have been playing a vital role in teachers getting an objective opinion on their teaching and how it impacts their students. We have done outstanding work in embracing these learning opportunities as we look to improve for our students!