

2010-2011 HES School Improvement Plan

Strategic Plan Goal #1: Harvard's entire pre-K-12 curricula will integrate core content knowledge with the critical thinking skills needed for success in the 21st Century.

School Goal #1
Integrate core content knowledge with technology and Habits of Mind
<i>Objective 1:</i> <i>Begin to apply essential questions, enduring understandings and performance assessments for each social studies unit. Identify ways to integrate Habits of Mind and 21st Century skills into Social Studies units</i>
Action Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Train a representative from each team on “Understanding by Design” 09-10 School Year• Offer 5 day summer graduate course designed to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Support teachers in applying the “Understanding by Design” format into Social Studies units and revisit draft of K-5 Essential Questions○ Introduce strategies to integrate Habits of Mind and 21st Century skills into Social Studies units○ Goal of having at least one Social Studies unit of study designed for each grade level by the end of the course
<i>Objective 2:</i> <i>Develop K-5 Writing about Reading Continuum with Emphasis on Grades 3-5 and identify ways to integrate Habits of Mind and 21st Century skills into the ELA curriculum</i>
Action Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading Curriculum Coordinator will develop a draft of :<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A Grade 3-5 “Writing About Reading” continuum○ The Reading Curriculum Coordinator will work in conjunction with at least one member of the HoM leadership team to identify possible areas of integration of Habits of Mind within the Reading and Writing Units of Study○ Feedback on these drafts will be reviewed in Curriculum Liaison Team with a final document produced by June 2011• Offer a hybrid graduate course in the fall (on-line, site) focused on “Writing about Reading”• Provide coaching opportunities around the Interactive Read-Aloud <p>Provide several opportunities for teachers to participate in a “Digital Storytelling” training. This workshop will provide students an opportunity to receive feedback on their work and publish in a secure web environment. The course will be taught by our technology integration specialist.</p>
School Goal #2
Continue to develop the technology infrastructure to support the teaching of critical thinking skills and 21st Century skills
Action Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Explore ways to move to a full-time technology integration specialist. This position would</i>

<p><i>allow for greater classroom support for technology integration, and to ensure that we are using our software and hardware to the fullest extent possible.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot the use of “Netbooks” as a less expensive alternative to allow students to have access the internet and to work with Microsoft Office software • Explore the installation of SmartBoards into Kindergarten classrooms
<p>School Goal #3 Continue to move towards a school-wide implementation of the <i>Habits of Mind</i></p>
<p>Action Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify 6-8 “Habits” for the “foreground” • Throughout the school and in classrooms there will be visual supports of the Habits of Mind • “Habits of Mind” will be a focus for several grade level curriculum meetings over the course of the year; specialists will meet during several ER days on this topic. At least 1 member of the HoM leadership team will facilitate these meetings • Provide teachers with brief anecdotes that they can use to talk to students about the “Habits” • Teachers will reference “habits” on a regular basis • Articles will be published in the Husky News informing parents about the “Habits of Mind”
<p>School Goal #4 Identify funding sources for the Weather Bug program and begin integration with 4th Grade Study of Weather</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize grant to the Harvard School’s Trust for the cost of the weather equipment • Dedicate some 4th grade curriculum meeting time to the exploration of the Weather Bug program

Strategic Plan Goal #2: Harvard will identify and support the success of all its learners regardless of their learning styles, past performances, or their goals beyond graduation

School Goal #1 Explore and pilot a variety of differentiation strategies for math instruction in 5th Grade
Action Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide 5th grade teachers opportunities to visit other districts that have been working on math differentiation in the classroom• Hold 2-day summer work session for Grade 5 Math/Science teachers, Math Tutors and Math Coordinator to explore how to best differentiate both regular math instruction and the targeted instruction block.• Utilize Curriculum Meeting time throughout the year to evaluate and problem solve challenges that arise in exploring the differentiation of math instruction
School Goal #2 More fully explore and evaluate the potential of the Renzulli learning resource
Action Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish a study group to explore the ways that Renzulli can support instruction, and strategies for managing this resource. At the end of the year, the study group will make recommendations around the future use of this program.
School Goal #3 Reinstate Writing Curriculum Coordinator Position
Action Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to advocate to School Committee the importance of reinstating this position

**Strategic Plan Goal #3:
Harvard's Professional Development systems will be consistently and thoughtfully aligned with the district's achievement and instructional goals.**

- **Please reference the following Professional Development Opportunities Listed Below:**
 - **Strategic Goal #1**
 - Summer graduate course for Integrating Social Studies, Technology, Habits of Mind, and 21st Century Skills
 - Fall hybrid (on-line/on site) graduate course for “Writing About Reading”
 - Coaching in the Interactive Read-Aloud
 - Provide additional opportunities for differentiated SmartBoard workshops
 - Provide opportunities for teachers to familiarize themselves with Digital Story Telling and Global projects
 - On-going coaching provided by Peggy Harvey around Technology Integration
 - On-going opportunities for cross-grade level SmartBoard sharing sessions
 - **Strategic Plan Goal #2**
 - Grade 5 math project to explore models of math differentiation
 - **Strategic Plan Goal #4**
 - Workshop to set up classroom/grade level websites

Strategic Plan Goal #4: Harvard will establish systems to promote effective communication among and between the administration, staff, and community.

School Goal #1

Identify and communicate HES/district structures for communication and decision-making

Action Steps:

- Update and publish HES Staff Handbook on-line
- Revise on-line HES student handbook
- Explore ways to streamline HES communications
- Create grade level or classroom websites using Ed-Line
- Continue with climate surveys in adherence to School Committee goals

Strategic Plan Goal #5: Harvard will create and implement an accountability plan to ensure that all systems within the organization are aligned with the district’s mission and a core set of prioritized goals.

School Goal #1

Continue to develop internal grade level and system assessments and to use this data for continuous improvement

Action Steps:

- Pilot “Performance Assessments” for a Social Studies unit in all grade levels
- Provide structures for collaborative feedback these performance assessments both at grade level and cross-grade level (Curriculum Liaison Team)
- Explore K-5 Science Assessments in Science Study Group

Additional Goals Unrelated to Strategic Plan

School Goal #1 Replace existing HES playground structure
Action Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• By 6/10 playground committee will choose sites and vendor with an anticipated 2011 installation date• Explore funding opportunities
School Goal #2 Explore the time and curriculum alignment issues associated with teaching handwriting
Action Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hold a Pre-K-2 dialogue on readiness and curriculum issues• Hold a 2-3 dialogue around cursive writing curriculum across second and third grade• Share the outcomes of these two dialogues at Curriculum Liaison Team in order to determine “next steps”
School Goal #3 Explore ways to improve recycling efforts at HES
Action Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore ways to establish a “Go Green” initiative
School Goal #4 Continue to explore ways to improve building cleanliness at HES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cleanliness committee will meet as needed over the course of the year and report out regularly at Faculty Meetings