South Grafton Elementary School's Improvement Plan

School Year 2019-2020

Grafton Public Schools – Strategy Overview

<u>**Vision**</u>
Grafton Public Schools is an evolving and responsive community. We provide an interactive learning environment that ensures academic excellence and social responsibility. Our instructional programs foster personal integrity and the critical thinking necessary for global citizenship. We empower our students to be active participants who thrive in an ever-changing world.

<u>**Theory of Action**</u>
The Grafton Public Schools will exceed the needs of all students by promoting exceptional instruction and the growth of all educators through collaboration, a rich and interconnected curriculum, and instructional supports.

Strategic Objectives

- ❖ **Strategic Objective #1: Foster the development of flexible and innovative learning environments**

<u>Overview</u>: The flexible modern learning environments being built today promote and support a range of learning activity, no longer confining students to a single desk and chair for everything they do. These learning environments support strengths-based teaching and can offer students and teachers flexibility, openness and access to resources, and can be configured to meet the changing requirements.

- ❖ **Strategic Objective #2: Maximize community engagement**

<u>Overview</u>: Schools, parents, and the community should work together to promote the health, well-being, and learning of all students. When schools actively involve parents and engage community resources, they are able to respond more effectively to the health-related needs of students. Family and community involvements foster partnerships among schools, family and community groups, and individuals. These partnerships result in sharing and maximizing resources. And they help children and youth develop healthy behaviors and promote healthy families.

- ❖ **Strategic Objective #3: Expand authentic learning experiences and assessments for all students**

<u>Overview:</u>Authentic learning refers to a wide variety of educational and instructional techniques focused on connecting what students are taught in school to real-world issues, problems, and applications. Students are more likely to be interested in what they are learning, more motivated to learn new concepts and skills, and better prepared to succeed in college, careers, and adulthood if what they are learning mirrors real-life contexts, equips them with practical and useful skills, and addresses topics that are relevant and applicable to their lives outside of school.

- ❖ **Strategic Objective #4: Increase personalized learning**

<u>Overview:</u> The term personalized learning refers to a diverse variety of educational programs, learning experiences, instructional approaches, and academic-support strategies that are intended to address the distinct learning needs, interests, aspirations, or cultural backgrounds of individual students. Personalized learning is generally seen as an alternative to so-called "one-size-fits-all" approaches to schooling in which teachers may, for example, provide all students in a given course with the same type of instruction, the same assignments, and the same assessments with little variation or modification from student to student. The goal of personalized learning is to make individual learning needs the primary consideration in important educational and instructional decisions.

- ❖ **Strategic Objective #5: Foster social-emotional learning**

Overview: Provide a safe and supportive learning and social environment where each member of the educational community can achieve in a respectful and productive environment and where students will grow in the five Social-Emotional Learning Competencies: Self-Awareness, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, Responsible Decision-Making, and Self-Management.

Section 1: School Improvement Goals for 2019-2020 (New Goals/Connections to District Strategic Plan)

Objective Area Goals
Foster the development of flexible and innovative learning environments
#2 To update and implement the new science standards at the K-l level through high quality instruction, that is differentiated, informed by evidence and collaborative.
Maximize community engagement
#1 To improve communication with families and the community through the use of technology.
Expand authentic learning experiences and assessments for all students
#3 To support student and faculty wellness through established programs and while investigating new means of support within and outside of the school day.
Increase personalized learning
#2 To update and implement the new science standards at the K-l level through high quality instruction, that is differentiated, informed by evidence and collaborative. #3 To support student and faculty wellness through established programs and while investigating new means of support within and outside of the school day.
Foster social-emotional learning #3 To support student and faculty wellness through established programs and while investigating new means of support within and

outside of the school day.

Section 2: School Overview School Demographics

Enrollment and Class Size Information:

2018-2019	
Grades Served	PreK-1
Total School Enrollment	314
Enrollment by Grade Level	
Grade Level:	79
Grade Level:	106
Grade Level:	130

Student Information:

Subgroups	Number of Students	% of Population
Native American	0	0
African American	9	3%
Asian	52	17%
Hispanic	16	5%
White	243	75%
Other/Mixed-Race	1	<1%
Special Education	86	27%
Low Income	56	18%
English Language Learners	10	.03%
First Language Not English	10	.03%

Section 3: Update on Goals from 2017-2020 School Improvement Plan:

The 2017 – 2020 school year goals and objectives were:

Goal #	Objective
Goal #1	To improve communication with families and the community through the use of technology.
Goal #2	To update and implement the new science standards at the K-1 level through high quality instruction, that is differentiated, informed by evidence and collaborative.
Goal #3	To support student and faculty wellness through established programs and while investigating new means of support within and outside of the school day.

Summary of Progress Made on 2017-2020 Goals:

<u>SIP GOAL #1 Results from 2017-2020</u>

SIP Goal # 1: To improve communication with families and the community through the use of technology.

Description of Proposed Action/Activity (What is going to be done to address this goal?)	Research/Rationale For Activity (Explain how best practices and research justify this activity)	Person(s) Responsible	Timeline (When will the activity occur?)	Anticipated End Outcome
Use See-Saw or similar application school-wide to communicate school learning and experiences with parents/families.	Surveys have indicated parents prefer to have information presented electronically, as well as, in hard copy	Principal Teachers	2017-2018 to include time to research apps and implement	Teachers will have the option of using the paid edition of See-Saw or another app to communicate with families
Use of monthly newsletter sent electronically and in hard copy to provide families with information on Responsive Classroom.	Surveys indicate that parents/families need more information regarding Responsive Classroom.	Principal	To begin in September 2017 and then yearly	Parents and families will have a better understanding of RC and how it is implemented in our school setting
Provide families with links to informational educational sites.	Surveys indicate parents/ families would like to have a list of informational sites to use at home	Principal Teachers Tech Dept.	September 2017 - 2020	Parents will have a comprehensive list of informational educational sites

During the 2018-2019 school year we: Over the past year, we have purchased the SeeSaw application for the staff to use as a means of communication with families again this year. We have close to 100% participation from teachers and staff members. We have also completed and sent the first three Responsive Classroom Newsletters home. App and links to educational and social emotional sites are listed on our school website, as well as, on many teacher websites. In addition, many staff members are also using apps such as

Remind, email and electronic newsletters to communicate with families. We have had staff members present to their peers on the different means of using technology to communicate. We are now on Twitter, too!

Status of Goal: Met

SIP GOAL #2 Results from 2017-2020

SIP Goal # 2: To update and implement the new science standards at the K-1 level through high quality instruction that is differentiated, informed by evidence and collaborative.

Description of Proposed Action/Activity (What is going to be done to address this goal?)	Research/Rationale For Activity (Explain how best practices and research justify this activity)	Person(s) Responsible	Timeline (When will the activity occur?)	Anticipated End Outcome
Grade levels will use the new Common Core standards to update and re-write the science curriculum for each grade level.	With the new Science standards, teachers and staff need time to update and re-write sections of the science curriculum at each grade level.	Grade level teams from NGES and SGES	SY 2016-2017	A comprehensive science curriculum will be completed and input into Atlas.
Determine supplies needed to implement the new curriculum	Teachers will determine what supplies are now needed to implement the new science standards at each grade level.	Grade level teams from NGES and SGES	SY 2016-2017	Supplies for new standards will be determined and ordered.
Implement new lessons and determine next steps.	Teachers will implement new lessons and reflect on how they were received.	Grade level teachers	SY 2017-2018	New lessons will be implemented, discussed and revised, if needed.
Work to include STEM activities in new science curriculum. (Collaboration/Differentiation)	Teachers will include STEM activities in the new science curriculum to allow for more collaborative and differentiated lessons.	Grade level teachers	SY 2017-2019	STEM lessons will be implemented, discussed and reflected upon.

Create assessments to collect data to further inform instruction and determine next steps.	Teachers will revise assessments to match the newer parts of the science curriculum to better inform their instruction.	Grade level teachers	SY 2016-2018	New science assessments will be created.

During the 2018-2019 school year we: We have implemented the science curriculum from the PreK level to grade 1, including fun, hands on and STEM/STEAM lessons. We have continued to use Science Doug as a means of thinking scientifically. We have ordered the supplies needed to match the curriculum and have piloted the STEM/STEAM lessons. Changes to when lessons were implemented were made.

Status of Goal: Met

SIP GOAL #3 Results from 2017-2020

SIP Goal # 3: To support student and faculty wellness through established programs and while investigating new means of support within and outside of the school day.

Description of Proposed Action/Activity (What is going to be done to address this goal?)	Research/Rationale For Activity (Explain how best practices and research justify this activity)	Person(s) Responsible	Timeline (When will the activity occur?)	Anticipated End Outcome
Begin to look at established programs for students in the area of wellness.	This is a district goal that we feel we would like to explore. Our students' and staffs' wellness should directly impact their abilities to teach and learn.	Principal Parents Staff Members	SY 2017-2020	Students and staff will demonstrate a social and emotional well- being.
Begin to look at established programs for staff in the area of wellness.	We would like to explore many options for staff that currently exist that would enhance their wellness.	Principal SAC Parents Staff Members	SY 2017-2020	Several options for promoting and retaining staff wellness will be identified and implemented.

Begin to research new programs for staff in the area of wellness.	We would like to explore new options for staff that that would enhance their wellness.	Principal SAC Parents Staff members	SY 2017-2020	Several new options for promoting and retaining staff wellness will be identified and implemented.

During the 2018-2019 school year we: Last year we started with a pilot of Music Therapy at the PreK level. This year, the program met once a month for the entire year. This has been a very welcome and useful program for our students at the PreK level. It has allowed many to express themselves through music and movement and as a means of self-regulation. We have implemented SEL professional development for all staff, including IAs and BLAs this year. Topics have included Bias and Beliefs, Growth Mindset, Use of SEL in the classrooms, Relationship mapping and Social Competencies. We have also continued with our Golden Tickets program, recognizing students doing the right thing, using kind words, random acts of kindness and going above and beyond in their social interactions. This has been very well received. We have looked into the Paws for Reading program, as well.

Status of Goal: Met.

Section 6: Signature Page

Name/Role	Signature
Doreen J. Parker, Principal/Co-Chair	
Robin Callahan, Parent/Co-Chair	
Mun Wong, Parent	
Pamela Hill, Parent	
Kathy Thornton, Teacher	
Magen Cosman, Teacher	
Julia Vulter, Teacher	
Susan DeCosta, Community Member	