

NORTHBRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

NORTHBRIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL
171 LINWOOD AVENUE, WHITINSVILLE, MA 01588

School Improvement Plan 2009-2010



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Table of Contents

NMS School Council Members.....	2
District Mission Statement/ District Goals.....	3
Goal # 1.....	1-7
Goal # 2.....	7-8
Goal # 3.....	8-10
Goal # 4.....	11-12
Goal # 5.....	12
MCAS CPI Data FY 09.....	13
Class Size and Student Teacher Ratio.....	14
Time on Learning Compliance.....	15
School Safety Plan (including Discipline Code).....	16

Northbridge Middle School School Improvement Plan 2009-10

Submitted by: Northbridge Middle School Site Council

Northbridge Middle School
School Council Members

- Jill Carroll, Principal (Chair)
- Michelle Benoit, Parent (Co-Chair)
- Megan Berg, Adjustment Counselor
- Robert McLaughlin, Teacher
- Tracy Spadaro, Teacher
- Mary Stinchfield, Teacher
- Laura Snelgrove, Teacher
- Joane Vierck, Parent
- Shelley Rivelli, parent
- Kim Morrison, Parent
- Kathy Lyons, Parent
- Allison Wollen, Parent

Northbridge School District 2009-10

District Mission Statement

The mission of the Northbridge Public Schools is to prepare our students to become responsible, contributing members of society by providing a challenging, rigorous educational program which will maximize academic achievement, enable intellectual, physical, social, and emotional development in an atmosphere which promotes creative and critical thinking.

Overarching District Goals (2009-2010)

Goal 1 – To increase academic achievement with high expectations and active engagement for all students and staff

Goal 2 – To secure a fiscally responsible budget for the 2010-11 academic year that addresses the mission and beliefs of the district

Goal 3 – To improve the social and emotional climate in the district

Goal 4 – To strengthen the district's relationship with the Northbridge community

Goal 5 – To support the consistent review and implementation of school committee policy

Goal 1: To increase academic achievement with high expectations and active engagement for all students.

Objective	Person Responsible	Budget	Indicators of Success	Status
<p>1.1. Students will be identified in the area of math that are not performing at grade level and make progress as the year progresses.</p>	<p>NMS Staff</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>A. By the end of December 2009, students who scored a warning on their math MCAS test will be put on a Student Success Plan targeting specific areas of need.</p> <p>B. Students who have been identified and are enrolled in Title 1 Math, will score in the Needs Improvement category or better in 2010 MCAS testing.</p> <p>C. Using a school wide determination process, teachers will identify and refer students to the Early Intervention Team.</p> <p>D. Students at NMS who fall into the low-income subgroup in the area of math will achieve the Adequate Yearly Progress target for MCAS.</p> <p>E. Students will be exposed to MCAS practice questions in the area of math through homework and/or class work at least two times a week.</p> <p>F. 50% of students who scored in the Needs Improvement category in MCAS and also qualify for free and reduced lunch will take advantage of the after school supplemental math program starting in February 2010.</p> <p>G. Special education teachers will expose their students to the Smartboard in math by engaging students in activities/lessons directly related to IEP needs.</p> <p>H. Northbridge Middle School's CPI Index in the mathematics subgroups will increase from the current rating. Data table pg. 13</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Objective	Person Responsible	Budget	Indicators of Success	Status
1.2 Students in special education will make progress in the classroom and meet their IEP annual goals/objectives.	NMS regular ed. teachers, special ed. teachers, support staff, and guardian(s)		A. Special education teachers will expose their students to the Smartboard in math by engaging students in activities/lessons directly related to IEP needs.	Ongoing
1.3 Students who demonstrate grade level or above ability will be challenged academically and will be held to high expectations and increased student achievement.			B. Students will receive support services as mandated on their IEP's and progress will be evident on quarterly mid-term report goals/objectives.	
			C. Special education students will achieve the Adequate Yearly Progress target from the MCAS tests.	
			A. Teachers will identify students who scored in the advanced/proficient category in MCAS by September 2009.	
			B. Teachers will utilize professional development activities and information (ex. Blooms Taxonomy, tiered teaching, backwards design) to ensure higher level thinking skills, questioning, etc. by incorporating material into daily lessons, assessments, and enrichment activities.	
			C. Students will be offered at least one (1) opportunity a year through contests, competitions, events, projects, etc. to enhance the classroom curriculum and challenge their knowledge base.	
			D. 10% of students who scored in the Proficient range in MCAS for ELA will score in the Advanced category during 2010 MCAS testing.	
			E. 10% of students who scored in the Proficient range in MCAS for math will score in the Advanced category during the 2010 MCAS testing.	

Objective	Person Responsible	Budget	Indicators of Success	Status
1.3 (cont.) Students who demonstrate grade level or above ability will be challenged academically and will be held to high expectations and increased student achievement.	NMS regular ed. teachers, special ed. teachers, support staff, and guardian(s)		F. Northbridge Middle School will look into Virtual High School and the possibility in offering class during the 2010-2011 school year by the end of the 2009-2010 school year.	Ongoing
			G. Students will be exposed to MCAS practice questions in the area of math through homework and/or class work at least two (2) times a week.	
			H. Students will be exposed to MCAS practice questions in the area of ELA through homework and/or class work at least two (2) times a week.	
1.4. Through the use of technology, all students will be actively engaged and challenged in the classroom.	NMS Staff		A. All teachers in math classrooms equipped with Smartboards will utilize their Smartboards into daily lessons at least twice a week in the classroom.	Ongoing
			B. Teachers who do not have a Smartboard in their classroom will use the Smartboard in the X-Lab at least once a month.	
			C. Computer carts, the Y-lab, and/or library materials involving technology will be signed out by staff members at least once a month to drive classroom instruction, provide creative projects, and engage learners based on ability.	
1.5 Through District-Wide Professional Development, students will be exposed to classroom environments that ensure active engagement and high expectations for all learners.	NMS Staff		<p>Staff will participate in the following Professional Development Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Flexible Grouping <input type="checkbox"/> Benchmark Assessments <input type="checkbox"/> Responsive Classroom <input type="checkbox"/> Booms Taxonomy <input type="checkbox"/> Data Analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Special Education Inclusion Co-teaching, assessments, etc. 	Ongoing

Objective	Person Responsible	Budget	Indicators of Success	Status
1.6 Students will be identified in the area of ELA who are not performing at grade level and make progress as the year progresses	NMS Staff		A. By the end of December 2009, students who scored a Warning on their ELA MCAS test will be put on a Student Success Plan targeting specific areas of need.	Ongoing
			B. Students who have been identified and are enrolled in Title 1 ELA, will score in the Needs Improvement category or better in 2010 MCAS testing.	
			C. Using a school wide determination process, teachers will identify and refer students to the Early Intervention Team.	
			D. Students at NMS who fall into the low income subgroup in the area of ELA will achieve the Adequate Yearly Progress target for MCAS.	
			E. Students will be exposed to MCAS practice questions in the area of ELA through homework and/or class work at least two times a week.	
			F. Northbridge Middle School's CPI Index in the Special Education Sub-group in the area of ELA will increase from the current rating. Data table pg. 13	
<i>Goal # 2: To secure a fiscally responsible budget for the 2010-2011 academic year that addresses the mission and belief of the district.</i>				
Objective	Person Responsible	Budget	Indicators of Success	Status
2.1. NMS will develop a zero-based budget that addresses the mission and goals of the district.	NMS Staff		Development and implementation of zero-based budget for the 10-11 school year.	Ongoing

Objective	Person Responsible	Budget	Indicators of Success	Status
2.2 Provide information to School Council and School Committee in order to communicate the fiscal initiatives and needs of NMS.	NMS Staff		Support of the development and implementation of presentations and other communications to town administrators, committees, parents and citizens that explain the fiscal initiatives and needs of NMS, as well as the district.	Ongoing
2.3 NMS will provide a grant opportunity to all faculty to increase staff involvement and knowledge on grant opportunities	NMS Staff Nancy Spitulnik		Grant training will take place for NMS staff by 2010	Ongoing
<u>Goal # 3:</u> To improve the social and emotional climate in the district.				
Objective	Person Responsible	Budget	Indicators of Success	Status
3.1 NMS will improve the climate within the school by educating students on bullying, cell phone/computer use, and being proactive rather than reactive to inappropriate behaviors.	NMS staff		A. By October 2009, the District Attorney's office will complete a presentation on bullying to Grades 5 and 6.	Ongoing
			B. Cyber bullying will be incorporated into the computer teacher's curriculum for students so they can identify, discuss, and become educated on the topic.	
			C. By November 2009, students will be given a school-wide survey on cell phones and computer use to determine target areas to educate students on.	
			D. Teachers will model behaviors and develop a classroom, cafeteria, and general school environment based on Responsive Classroom.	

Objective	Person Responsible	Budget	Indicators of Success	Status
3.2 NMS will be proactive in addressing the social and emotional needs of students.	NMS regular ed. teachers, special ed. teachers, support staff, and guardian(s)		<p>A. Starting in October 2009, weekly meetings will take place with the Crisis Team to discuss attendance, amount of nurses' visits, referrals to the guidance office, and amount of discipline reports and provide the appropriate</p> <p>B. NMS will have 30% of the students in the school involved in an after school club, sport, Student Council, etc. by May 2010.</p> <p>C. Through the support of guidance and adjustment counselors this year, the amount of students reporting to the nurse's office with anxiety related concerns will decrease by 25% from last year.</p> <p>D. NMS administration will communicate weekly with outside agencies such as the NPD, DSS, Milford court, etc. to acknowledge issue, which occur outside of school that impact students while in school.</p> <p>E. Students will be held accountable for the discipline policy at NMS to ensure the sense of safety for students well being at school when problematic behaviors occur with themselves or those around them to ensure a positive learning environment.</p>	Ongoing
3.3 NMS, NHS, NES, and Balmer principals will meet with both the Superintendent, Asst. Superintendent and other members of the Leadership Team to assure collaboration and communication between all of the schools	NMS Staff		<p>A. Bi-weekly meetings held with the Leadership Team.</p> <p>B. District-wide professional development, emergency protocol procedure, etc.</p> <p>C. Meetings held between the Leadership Team and the School Committee to ensure a consistent vision and ongoing conversations around district goals and students' success.</p>	Ongoing

Objective	Person Responsible	Budget	Indicators of Success	Status
3.4 Monthly meetings and/or communication via email will take place monthly with local agencies which support the academic and/or social success for students at NMS.	NMS Staff/Community Members		<p>A. Within Community Center Outreach, Kumon Center, Assumption College, Donna Simone, Judy Garvey, Roundtable Meetings, etc.</p> <p>B. Establishing a PTA at NMS to increase parental involvement and school/parent relationships.</p> <p>C. NMS will host an outreach discussion for parents on teen topics by June 2010.</p> <p>D. NMS will review the Mentor Program and the possibility in bringing it back to NMS for the 2010-2011 school year.</p>	Ongoing
3.5 Northbridge Middle School will provide opportunities for a smooth transition for students from Balmer to NMS and from NMS to NHS.	NMS Staff		<p>A. Northbridge Middle School will continue to host “Step up Day” for Grade 4 students at Balmer in May 2010.</p> <p>B. Grade 8 students will be exposed to opportunities to visit NHS, such as Rachel’s Challenge and Grade 8 Tour of NHS.</p>	Ongoing
3.6 Northbridge Middle School will continue to implement a therapeutic program which supports the social and emotional needs for students in need of the support.	NMS Staff		<p>A. Students (90% or higher) will remain in the therapeutic program at NMS (Pathways) rather than being sent to outside placements.</p> <p>B. In combination with the therapeutic piece, students in the Pathways program will show academic gains this school year based on the individualized academic and behavioral plans implemented for student needs.</p>	

Goal # 4: To Strengthen the districts relationship with the Northbridge community.

Objective	Person Responsible	Budget	Indicators of Success	Status
4.1 NMS will maintain its webpage, monthly newsletter, and Channel 13 with information on current events and important information.	NMS Principal/Staff		A. NMS' webpage will be updated at least once a month or more when applicable. B. Within the first week of every month, students will receive a copy of the monthly newsletter, which will also be posted on the school's webpage. NMS will utilize Channel 13	
4.2 NMS will host annual events and invite the Northbridge community.	NMS regular ed. teachers, special ed. teachers, support staff, and guardian(s)		A. NMS will continue to host current annual events such as the winter and spring music concert, Grade 5 Veterans Day Celebration, Grade 8 Veterans' Breakfast, and incorporate at least two (2) new events by June 2010. B. NMS will hold monthly School Council meetings in which the community will be informed through web page updates on dates, time, agenda, and minutes.	Ongoing
4.3 NMS will build relationships specifically with the senior citizens in the community.	NMS Staff/Students		A. NMS will increase the attendance as the school year progresses for programs such as the Intergenerational Group, for meaningful dialogue between elementary, middle, and high school students who are committed to improving their community. B. NMS will host at least one (1) event this year in which senior citizens are provided with an opportunity to take part in an activity in which NMS students organize.	Ongoing

Objective	Person Responsible	Budget	Indicators of Success	Status
4.4 Northbridge Middle School will launch a cable program called Make Waves by December 2009 as well as the website www.globalwaveslive.org.	NMS Staff/Students		NMS will measure success by the amount of community involvement that results from the cable show as well as the level of participation through the web.	Ongoing
4.5 Northbridge Middle School will continue to have outside organizations use the school grounds and building for events and promote NMS as a meeting location with student agencies in town.	NMS Staff		A. The Northbridge community will continue to show interest in the middle school and will use the building for events.	Ongoing
			B. In December 2009, NMS will begin to host the Community Outreach Program (Whitin Community Center) in order to increase involvement and establish new programs for NMS.	
<u>Goal # 5:</u> To support the consistent review and implementation of School Committee policy.				
5.1 NMS will abide by and implement all Northbridge Public School Policies established by the Northbridge School Committee.	NMS Principal & Assistant Principal		A. At the beginning of each school year, NMS Principal and Assistant Principal will review all additions and amendments to the Northbridge Public Schools Policy Manual.	
			B. At the beginning of each school year, NMS Administration will review all pertinent Northbridge Public Schools Policies with the staff.	

**MCAS CPI Data FY09
District ELA**

	Aggregate			Students w/Disability			Low Income			White			Title I		
	Dist.	State	Diff.	Dist.	State	Diff.	Dist.	State	Diff.	Dist.	State	Diff.	Dist.	State	Diff.
Grade 5	90.9	85.7	5.2	69.4	67.1	2.3	85.1	74.5	10.6	91.6	89.6	2.0	87.1	75.0	12.1
Grade 6	87.0	85.7	1.3	54.0	64.9	-10.9	76.8	73.9	2.9	87.3	89.4	-2.1	82.0	75.0	7.0
Grade 7	91.4	88.1	3.3	67.3	69.0	-1.7	81.1	77.7	3.4	92.5	91.5	1.0	90.1	77.7	12.4
Grade 8	95.1	91.1	4.0	75.0	73.6	1.4	87.3	82.6	4.7	94.9	94.0	0.9	93.8	83.1	10.7

**MCAS CPI Data FY09
District Math**

	Aggregate			Students w/Disability			Low Income			White			Title I		
	Dist.	State	Diff.	Dist.	State	Diff.	Dist.	State	Diff.	Dist.	State	Diff.	Dist.	State	Diff.
Grade 5	73.3	77.0	-3.7	50.9	54.7	-3.8	60.1	62.8	-2.7	75.0	81.4	-6.4	61.0	64.1	-3.1
Grade 6	81.3	78.2	3.1	49.2	55.5	-6.3	72.3	63.8	8.5	81.6	82.8	-1.2	70.1	65.2	4.9
Grade 7	70.5	73.8	-3.3	48.0	49.3	-1.3	54.8	57.9	-3.1	72.4	78.8	-6.4	52.8	57.9	-5.1
Grade 8	75.4	72.8	2.6	43.3	47.4	-4.1	62.9	56.0	6.9	74.5	78.1	-3.6	61.6	56.8	4.8

NORTHBRIGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

**CLASS SIZE AND STUDENT TEACHER RATIO
2009-2010**

According to the agreement between the School Committee and the Teachers Association of Northbridge, Massachusetts, a maximum pupil to classroom teacher ratio shall not exceed 25 to 1 whenever possible.

The following information below shows class size and student teacher ratio here at Northbridge Middle School for the 2009-10 school year (reflects regular education classrooms).

Grade	Number of Teachers	Amount of Students in Grade	Ratio
5	8	178	23 to 1
6	9	199	22 to 1
7	8	208	26 to 1
8	8	196	25 to 1
Exploratory	Gr. 5 & 8 (5) Gr. 6 & 7 (6)		Gr. 5: 18 to 1 Gr. 6: 34 to 1 Gr. 7: 35 to 1 Gr. 8: 20 to 1
<u>Total # of Students: 781</u>			

*Numbers of students may vary slightly throughout the school year due to students transferring in or out of Northbridge Middle School.

NORTHBRIGE MIDDLE SCHOOL
TIME ON LEARNING COMPLIANCE
2009-2010

Education Laws and Regulations 603 CMR 27.00
 Structured Learning Time

Definition

Structured Learning Time shall mean time during the day when students are engaged in regularly scheduled instruction, learning activities, or learning assessments within the curriculum for study of the “core subjects” and “other subjects.” In addition to classroom time where both teachers and students are present, structured learning time may include directed study, independent study, technology-assisted learning, and presentations by persons other than teachers, school-to-work programs, and statewide student performance assessments.

“A middle school designated as an elementary school could choose to provide 900 hours for the 5th and 6th grades and 950 hours for the 7th and 8th grades at the discretion of the school as long as all students are scheduled to receive at least 900 hours of structured learning time.”

Northbridge Middle School
Formulas for Structured Learning Time
 For all Grades 5-8

Total School Day Minutes	Passing Time	Lunch Time	Total Learning Minutes (per day)
*380 Minutes	19 Minutes	24 Minutes	337 Minutes

Minutes Learning Per/Week Converted Into Minutes Per/Year (337 minutes per day x 180 school days per year = 60,660 minutes per/year)

Minutes Learning Per/Year Converted Into Hours Learning Per/Year (60,660 minutes (per year) divided by 60 minutes = 1,011 hours of structured learning time per/year)

* Hours DO NOT include Passing Time and/or Lunch Time

**NORTHBRIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL
SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN and DISCIPLINE CODE
*2009-10***

For School Safety Plan please refer to:

- **Northbridge Public Schools Emergency Protocol Plan/Flip Chart**

For Northbridge Middle School Discipline Code please refer to:

- **Northbridge Middle School's Code of Conduct** (Document is located in the Northbridge Middle School Student Handbook on pg. 20).

