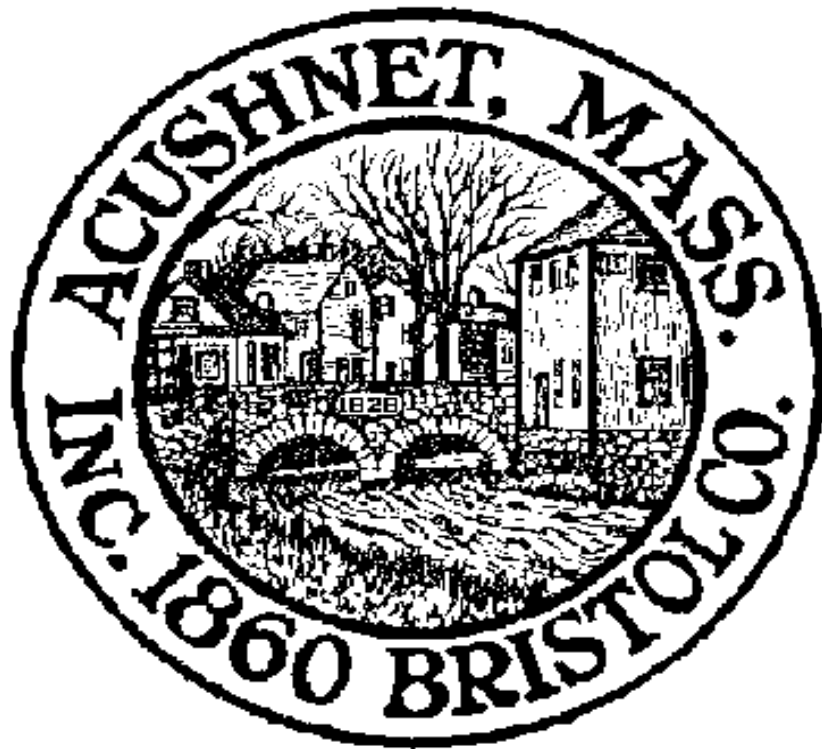


**ALBERT F. FORD MIDDLE  
SCHOOL**



**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN  
2008 –2009**

**Timothy L. Plante  
Principal**

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## **OUR SCHOOL VISION**

We envision a school that is permeated by an attitude of acceptance of differences and views faults and mistakes as opportunities for learning.

We will strive to be a place and time where staff will extend themselves in using techniques and resources to aid each individual student in skills of problem solving and decision making.

We seek a school which recognizes individual learning styles and develops the potential of each student to become life long learners.

## **ACUSHNET PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT GOALS**

Our school improvement plan goals are aligned to the Acushnet Public Schools District Improvement Plan and are based on a number of individual factors which comprise the overall vision of the Acushnet Schools.

- A safe and secure learning environment
- A students-centered curriculum and instruction
- Academic excellence
- Life-long learning
- Acquisition of basic skills
- Acquisition of social skills
- Comprehensive education
- Collaborative relationships
- Community involvement
- Respect for diversity

## **OUR MISSION**

Our mission at Ford Middle School is to provide an opportunity for each student to grow and learn in a safe, caring, and responsive learning environment. Through our celebration of diversity, students will be encouraged to recognize and value the uniqueness of themselves and others. Ford Middle School is dedicated to fostering respect, wise decision-making and skillfulness for lifelong learning. The successful implementation of this mission will enable students to recognize their value and place in society and achieve academic success.

## **CORE VALUES**

Jon Saphier from Research for Better Teaching defines a core value as a central belief deeply understood and shared by every member of an organization. He further states that core values guide the actions of everyone in the organization: they focus its energy and are the anchor points for all its plans. Core values permeate an institution, drive its decisions, elicit strong reaction when violated and are the last things to be given up.

As a school community, we developed a set of core values throughout the 2008-2009 school year. It was a long process which obtained input from all member groups of the school community.

Our core values are:

- Students will care, value, and respect others and themselves as a vital part of the learning process.
- Our students will go through a process of basic organization skills that will lead to higher level problem solving and critical thinking techniques.
- Students will leave our school with the skills and knowledge necessary to successfully achieve at the high school level.

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL MISSION**

Our mission is to meet monthly with the principal and assist in the following:

- 1) Identify the educational needs of FMS students.
- 2) Make recommendations relevant to the education needs of FMS students.
- 3) Construct a school improvement plan that identifies annual goals, activities, and resources that will lead to school improvement.
- 4) Review the annual school budget with the principal to understand the implications for goals and activities in the school improvement plan.
- 5) Review and update the student-parent/guardian handbook.
- 6) Making recommendations for the development, implementation, and assessment of the district curriculum accommodation plan

## **FMS SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Timothy L. Plante	Principal
Keri Kuehne	Parent
Paul Mello	Parent/Community Representative
John Roy	Teacher

## ATTAINMENT OF GOALS 2007-2008

### **Goal #1**

Continuous improvement of student achievement in mathematics.

#### **Degree of Attainment to Date:**

- 1) All of the teachers for the aforementioned subjects created new curriculum guides, maps, and curriculum benchmarks that will be presented to the school committee early this fall for their approval.
- 2) Regular curriculum committee meetings were reestablished.
- 3) Made AYP in sub group areas that did not make it last MCAS.
- 4) Scored average or above the state average in Math in all grades.

### **Goal #2**

Continuous improvement of student achievement in English/Language Arts.

#### **Degree of Attainment to Date:**

- 1) All of the teachers for the aforementioned subjects created new curriculum guides, maps and curriculum benchmarks that will be presented to the school committee early this fall for their approval.
- 2) Regular curriculum committee meetings were reestablished.
- 3) Scored average or above the state in ELA in all grades.

### **Goal #3**

Continuous improvement of student achievement in science & technology.

#### **Degree of Attainment to Date:**

- 1) All of the teachers for the aforementioned subjects created new curriculum guides, maps and curriculum benchmarks that will be presented to the school committee early this fall for their approval.
- 2) Regular curriculum committee meetings were reestablished.
- 3) Textbooks were purchased in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade to align better with the frameworks.

#### **Goal #4**

Continue to align curriculums to the state frameworks

##### **Degree of Attainment to Date:**

Although this is a continuing goal, we made significant accomplishments in this area:

- 1) Teachers in every discipline created new curriculum maps, guides and benchmarks.
- 2) By the end of the school year, all curriculums will be done and sent for approval by the school committee.
- 3) A new lesson plan format was discussed and will be used by early fall.

#### **Goal #5**

Improve communication within our school and between parents/guardians and the school

##### **Degree of Attainment to Date:**

This remains a continuing goal, but substantial progress was made in the following areas:

- 1) A school website was designed and maintained that has provided students, parents/guardians, and the school faculty and staff with up to date bulletins, school information, school forms, teacher voicemail extensions, and links to academic resources. Handbook placed on web site.
- 2) A more comprehensive teacher handbook was created and disseminated. This handbook better describes school and district policies and procedures. Access to this handbook was also increased.
- 3) Weekly Academic Support Meetings (ASMs) again held, where guidance/administration and the grade level teams meet to discuss students and overall school concerns, address 504s, construct TATs, suggest potential referrals to special education, and create student success plans.
- 4) A link to all Ford Middle School forms was created to make it more easily accessible.
- 5) Special effort to contact news & media outlets to disseminate positive occurrences & happenings at school.

#### **Goal #6**

To provide a safe environment for all students and staff.

##### **Degree of Attainment to Date:**

- 1) Successful changes were made in the parent/guardian-student handbook.
- 2) Convey resources from the outside to help staff and students recognize bullying, teasing and harassment.
- 3) Implemented a secure lockdown procedure that was used several times throughout the school year.
- 4) Revised the morning and afternoon duties to provide maximum supervision for the students.
- 5) Mandatory ID's were worn by all staff members.

## ALBERT F. FORD MIDDLE SCHOOL GOALS 2008 –2009

Goal	Improvement Objectives	Strategies to Accomplish Objectives	Time Line	Responsibility	Assessment	Fiscal Impact
<p><b>GOAL #1</b></p> <p>Improve student achievement in mathematics</p>	<p>To increase grade 5-8 mathematics MCAS scores</p> <p>To exceed the state average for MCAS scores in mathematics grades 5- 8</p>	<p>*Increase the amount of class time spent on mathematics by: 1) using the Accelerated Math program during all grade Academic periods (each day), by using Study Island grade 5-8 during MCAS Prep periods (two days a week) 2) adding an additional mathematics teacher provided that the budget supports this additional teacher</p> <p>*If possible, adjust teacher's schedule to have teachers rotate during Academic periods in 5<sup>th</sup> &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> grade to have more teacher instruction on areas of weakness, then independent learning</p> <p>*Annual evaluation of mathematics MCAS results in order to identify areas of weakness</p> <p>*Reinstitute additional mathematics testing provided that the budget supports this testing (This testing would be reinstated in order to provide teachers with another means of identifying areas of weakness for this subject area)</p> <p>*Continue to enhance mathematics curriculum guide, curriculum benchmarks, and curriculum maps</p> <p>*Add weekly word problem in all math classes</p> <p>*Require math vocabulary notebooks in all grades</p> <p>*Purchase advanced Accelerated Math test (Algebra) for better placement for MCAS</p> <p>*Keeping Pre-Algebra/Algebra Classes together in MCAS Prep</p> <p>*By practicing and modeling good MCAS answers in all grade levels before MCAS testing</p> <p>*Professional development opportunities including: courses, workshops, and conferences related to a teacher's subject area</p>	<p>Sept thru June</p>	<p>Administration &amp; Staff</p> <p>Mathematics Teachers</p>	<p>Annual Data Analysis Report</p> <p>Teacher Evaluations</p> <p>The Completion of Courses, Workshops, and Conferences Related to a Teacher's Subject Area</p>	<p>Salary for a Mathematics Specialist Teacher \$42,755</p> <p>Conferences/ Workshops, and Travel Reimbursement- \$5,000</p> <p>Study Island MCAS Program-\$3,000</p> <p>Algebra Accelerated Math Test-\$1,300</p> <p>Testing Materials \$2,500</p>

<p><b>GOAL #2</b></p> <p>Improve student achievement in English/ Language Arts</p>	<p>To increase grade 5-8 ELA language &amp; literature MCAS scores</p> <p>To exceed the state average for MCAS scores in ELA language &amp; literature grades 5-8</p>	<p>*Evaluation of MCAS results in order to identify areas of weakness</p> <p>*Continue to enhance English/Language Arts curriculum maps, curriculum benchmarks, and curriculum guides</p> <p>*Reinstitute additional English/Language Arts testing provided that the budget supports this testing (This testing would be reinstated in order to provide teachers with another means of identifying areas of weakness for this subject area)</p> <p>*Increase the amount of MCAS prep time and English/Literature time devoted to answering open response questions</p> <p>*By practicing and modeling good MCAS answers in all grade levels before MCAS testing</p> <p>*Purchase study skills preparation materials</p> <p>*Expand their writing skills in all subject areas</p> <p>*Increase reading of plays in all grades</p> <p>*Read more non-fiction novels in all grades</p> <p>*Require summer reading assignments for all incoming 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students</p> <p>*Professional development opportunities including: courses, workshops, and conferences related to a teacher's subject area</p>	<p>Sept thru June</p>	<p>Administration &amp; Staff</p> <p>English/ Language Arts Teachers</p>	<p>Annual Data Analysis Report</p> <p>Teacher Evaluations</p> <p>The Completion of Courses, Workshops, and Conferences Related to a Teacher's Subject Area</p>	<p>Conferences/ Workshops, and Travel Reimbursement- \$5,000</p> <p>Study Skills Preparation Materials-\$1,000</p> <p>Testing Materials \$2,500</p>
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<p><b>GOAL #3</b></p> <p>Improve student achievement in science &amp; technology</p>	<p>To increase grade 5 &amp; 8 science &amp; technology MCAS scores</p> <p>To exceed the state average for MCAS scores in science &amp; technology grade 5 &amp; 8</p>	<p>*Evaluation of MCAS results in order to identify areas of weakness</p> <p>*Continue to enhance science &amp; technology curriculum maps, curriculum benchmarks, and curriculum guide</p> <p>*Increase the amount of class time spent on science &amp; technology instruction by: 1) using 8th grade MCAS Prep class for science by using Study Island. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade will use science assignments 3 months before MCAS testing. 2) Adding a Science Skills teacher provided that the budget supports this additional teacher</p> <p>*Require science vocabulary notebooks in all grades</p> <p>*During tech class, add more time covering manufacturing in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade</p> <p>*Professional development opportunities including: courses, workshops, and conferences related to a teacher's subject area</p>	<p>Sept thru June</p>	<p>Administration &amp; Staff</p> <p>Science &amp; Technology Teachers</p>	<p>Annual Data Analysis Report</p> <p>The Completion of Courses, Workshops, and Conferences Related to a Teacher's Subject Area</p>	<p>Salary for Science Skills Teacher \$42,755</p> <p>Conferences/ Workshops, and Travel Reimbursement- \$5,000</p> <p>Study Island MCAS Program-\$2,000</p>
<p><b>GOAL #4</b></p> <p>To form a consistent instructional approach that will raise student achievement</p>	<p>To update and streamline school curriculum guides</p> <p>To enhance curriculum benchmarks and curriculum maps</p> <p>To adopt a new lesson plan format</p>	<p>*Continue to hold monthly subject area curriculum committee meetings</p> <p>*Establish early release days exclusively as curriculum development days</p> <p>*Explore the possibility of expanding the role of the subject area team leaders</p> <p>*Use data from TestWiz to find student weaknesses</p> <p>*Add an additional team planning period to the schedule that will be partly used for interdisciplinary curriculum planning</p> <p>*Require staff during a team plan or two during the month to work on updating curriculum, curriculum maps, and benchmarks</p> <p>*Provide staff with a new lesson plan template that will be passed in during a required time to be observed by the administration</p> <p>*Add curriculum leaders in each subject area (if the budget supports this position)</p> <p>*Begin a curriculum revision cycle</p> <p>*Begin a text book replacement cycle</p>	<p>Sept thru June</p>	<p>Administration &amp; Staff</p>	<p>TestWiz</p> <p>District Professional Development</p> <p>The Completion of Updated Curriculum Guides that are Aligned to the State Frameworks</p>	<p>Conferences/ Workshops, and Travel Reimbursement- \$5,000</p> <p>Curriculum Leader-\$2,000</p>

<p><b>GOAL #5</b></p> <p>Improve communication within our school and between parents/guardians and the school</p>	<p>To continue improvements in communication, within our school, between home and school, and with the community</p>	<p>*Continue to enhance the school website by adding new information  *Provide communication between home and school using school and teacher web pages, e-mail, and voice mail  *Enhance and disseminate a more comprehensive teacher handbook that better describes school and district policies and procedures  *Continue to hold weekly Academic Support Meetings (ASMs), where guidance/administration and grade level teams meet to: discuss students and school concerns, address 504s, construct TATs, suggest potential referrals to special education, and create student success plans)  *Add all forms to web site for easy teacher accesses.  * Continue to get information to media outlets ect..  *Continue 5<sup>th</sup> grade orientation day/night for all incoming students</p>	<p>Sept thru June</p>	<p>Administration &amp; Staff</p>	<p>The Addition of Useful Information to the School Website   The Completion of a More Comprehensive Teacher Handbook   The Completion of all Student Success Plans and 504s</p>	<p>Supplies &amp; Materials for Teacher Handbook-\$100</p>
<p><b>GOAL #6</b></p> <p>Provide a safe learning environment for students and staff</p>	<p>Students will be apprised of school safety, procedures and policies through each school's updated handbook and through a day one assembly conducted by the principal and assistant principal</p> <p>Staff will review the district's safety and civil rights procedures annually</p> <p>The recently revised District Emergency Response Plan will be implemented</p>	<p>*Revise and purchase student planners/handbook  *Revise Teacher handbooks  *Revise our school handbook with district policies  *Review policies and procedures annually  *Practice emergency response scenarios along with fire drills  *Continue to practice lock downs</p>	<p>Sept thru June</p>	<p>Administration and Staff</p>	<p>Completed Handbooks   Training Log for Review of District's Safety and Civil Rights Procedures   The Successful Implementation of the Newly Revised District Emergency Response Plan</p>	<p>The Purchase of Student planners/handbooks-\$3,300</p>