

# Ellenvale Junior High School



88 Belle Vista Drive  
Dartmouth, NS  
B2W 2X7

[www.ellenvale.ednet.ns.ca](http://www.ellenvale.ednet.ns.ca)

**Planning For  
Improvement  
2004-2007**

EVERY STUDENT CAN LEARN ~ EVERY SCHOOL CAN IMPROVE

## **Mission Statement**

Ellenvale Junior High School, a dynamic, diversified school that challenges each student to achieve personal and educational excellence, and to develop responsibility and respect within a safe learning environment in partnership with home and community.



## **School Targets for Improvement**

### ***Numeracy:***

**To improve competency and confidence in mathematics across the curriculum.**

### ***Literacy:***

**To develop and implement strategies to provide students support in the following areas: determining main idea, identifying text features and concept development across the curriculum.**

### ***Communication:***

**To improve two way communication within community and school and make connections with parents/guardians, students and outside agencies to help enhance student learning.**

 **Numeracy****Principal's Comments:**

I commend the staff of Ellenvale Junior High School for their willingness to affect change in the mathematical program in order for students to improve their skills.

- The Numeracy Team meets on a regular basis to discuss vertical curriculum alignment.
- A 'Math Corner' section containing a number of websites that will be beneficial to students and parents / guardians will be included in the school's monthly newsletter.
- The Numeracy Team continues to implement various math activities that teachers can use in their classroom.
- As a result of the "new" interest in math, several students have shown great improvement in their computation and problem solving skills.
- Math materials have been stored in a centralized location and a key issued to all math teachers. The sign out sheets indicates that the manipulative are being used.

**Goal 1:**

Math teachers across grades 7, 8, & 9 will align the curriculum horizontally and vertically to ensure effective student transition from grade to grade.

**Actions:**

- To develop common assessment tools for each grade level
- Strand to strand curriculum alignment meetings for gr. 7, 8, & 9 math teachers.
- Math leader professional development on authentic assessment (product, conversations, and observation).
- To develop, distribute, and implement a common math glossary.

**Measurement of Success:**

- Tracking and analyzing results of common assessment tools
- Grade 9 board math Assessment.
- 7,8, & 9 report card data.
- Teacher record (product, observations, and conversations).

**Goal 2:**

To raise awareness of, and make connections to mathematic concepts and language across the curriculum.

**Actions:**

- Math based whole school professional development.
- Team members map curriculums.
- Literacy coordinator work on math language comprehension strategies.
- To develop, distribute, and implement a common math glossary.
- For each math class to administer pre and post math knowledge inventory assessment.

**Measurement of Success:**

- Grade 9 board math assessment.
- 7, 8, & 9 report card data.
- Teacher anecdotal accounts.
- Results of the pre and post math knowledge inventory assessment.

**Goal 3:**

To increase the students comfort and ability in making connections between the different forms of representation and the levels of questions.

**Actions:**

- Maintain and upgrade centralized manipulative storage area and encourage and monitor use.
- Provide ongoing professional development to encourage math manipulative use.
- Math Night (bridging the math generation gap)
- Creation of math links on school website and monthly newsletter.
- Each math teacher will promote understanding of the criteria of level 1, 2, & 3 questions.
- Teachers will provide regular opportunities to solve higher order question.

**Measurement of Success:**

- Report card data
- Board wide math assessment results
- Number of hits on math section of website
- Recorded data on manipulative use



## Literacy

### Principal's Comments:

The Literacy Team continues to meet regularly to discuss and maintain the desired goals for the school.

- All teachers were given a Literacy Binder which outlines the goals of the committee covering timelines from 2004-2007.
- Teachers are currently involved in literature circles, book talks, independent reading, etc.
- Visiting authors have presented talks in the aspects of writing, themes, creativity, etc.
- Donna Gillespie, literacy coordinator, has been assisting teachers with implementing reading and writing strategies in their classroom.
- Our library is also being upgraded. The English content teachers, learning centre teacher and literacy coordinator all helped to compile a list of areas of need for books and areas of interest from students. The goal was to find texts that reached a wider range of students both at skill level and interest level. Books were both fiction and non-fiction.

### Goal 1:

All students will be able to identify and implement specific literacy strategies across the curriculum. (See attached plan of implementation)

### Actions:

- Staff meeting demonstrations by literacy coordinator and learning center and resource teachers
- Grade level meetings
- Active Readers In-service
- Student portfolios
- Modeling and demonstration in classroom by teacher, literacy coordinator and/or resource and learning center teachers
- Centralized literacy resource display
- Literacy Team Meetings

**Measurement of Success:**

- Teacher checklist for use of strategies in duotang
- Year end assessment that asks students to show they are thinking while reading by using one of the four introduced strategies
- Grade nine assessments
- Tracking of grade seven literacy plans
- Observations of students use of literacy strategies
- Teacher's conversations of effectiveness of specific strategies

**Goal 2:**

Teachers will focus on the alignment of written curriculum, taught curriculum and assessment tools.

**Actions:**

- Student portfolios move forward from year to year
- Meetings with English teachers across the three grade levels discuss and plan general curriculum outcomes
- Continued support and mentoring from Literacy Coordinator
- Time devoted during staff meeting, in-service and assessment days to align curriculum and exploration of effective methods such as for curriculum alignment
- Copies of curriculum guides for all teachers at each grade level
- Set of curriculum guides in library
- Increase amount of multicultural texts in library and classroom, in particular, the amount of multi-cultural literature that involves positive role models and situations
- Examine current library and Active Readers text to make a school list of multi-cultural texts
- Development of curriculum alignment plan for September 2006.

**Measurement of Success:**

- Curriculum alignment plan for English, grades 7-9
- Observations and conversations of students and teachers
- Portfolios and assessment tools to observe student growth and achievement

School Based Literacy Strategies

School Year	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
2004-2005	KWL Skimming/Scanning Venn Diagrams Anticipation guides Chapter tours	KWL Skimming/Scanning Venn Diagrams Anticipation guides Chapter tours	KWL Skimming/Scanning Venn Diagrams Anticipation guides Chapter tours
2005-2006	KWL Skimming/Scanning Venn Diagrams Anticipation guides Chapter tours	KWL Skimming/Scanning Venn Diagrams Anticipation guides Chapter tours 6IST QAR questioning TAG (notebook questioning)	KWL Skimming/Scanning Venn Diagrams Anticipation guides Chapter tours 6IST QAR questioning TAG (notebook questioning)
2007-2007	KWL Skimming/Scanning Venn Diagrams Anticipation guides Chapter tours	KWL Skimming/Scanning Venn Diagrams Anticipation guides Chapter tours 6IST QAR questioning TAG (notebook questioning)	KWL Skimming/Scanning Venn Diagrams Anticipation guides Chapter tours 6IST QAR questioning TAG (notebook questioning) Text highlighting Cornell note-taking I-Chart REAP



## Communication

### Principal's Comments:

I commend the communication team for meeting also on a regular basis.

- To keep the lines of communication open, the staff has improved the design of their web pages. Homework has also been posted for parents/ guardians and students to check. Many parents have expressed their appreciation with this progress.
- Newsletters are sent home once a month. To ensure parents / guardians received I, they are asked to sign the bottom part and return it back to school.
- Outside signage is also used to keep parents / guardians informed.
- The school's web page is up and running with various links to our school's targets as well as school activities. Again much feedback from parents / guardians and community members have been encouraging.

### Goal 1:

To improve the quality and method of communication with our parents and guardians in relation to student achievement.

### Actions:

- Encourage parent and student input/suggestions for school website updates
- Increase the number of links on website directly related to academic achievement
- Add a new section to our new newsletter that specifically provides strategies for parents/guardians to increase academic achievement
- Create school wide student and parent/guardian survey asking which forms of communication would best lead to an increase in student achievement
- Develop a database of parents and community members who would be willing to support the school in a variety of curricular activities
- Professional development for parents/guardians on how to help their students with their homework
- Hold an assessment and evaluation meeting for parents/guardians at least once each school year
- Increase the number of school contacts both written and oral between teacher and parents/guardians
- To streamline and increase the use of teacher web pages by both students and parents/guardians
- Invite parents/guardians to use staff e-mail addresses by publishing the addresses in the news letter and website

**Measurement of Success:**

- Number of hits on the web site related to student achievement links
- Number of e-mail requests for improvement or updates to the web site
- Number of emails sent between parents/guardian and teachers
- Future parent/guardian survey results
- Parent/guardian and teacher anecdotal comments
- Attendance by parents at after school homework/assessment and evaluation sessions  
Parent/Teacher communication log records