

Beechville-Lakleside-Timberlea Elementary
Planning for Improvement – School Plan 2009 - 2010

The school community takes pride in our students' accomplishments. There is much to celebrate here at BLT. However, we also know that we can improve. As a result, we are very dedicated to demonstrating our continued improvement. The Halifax Regional School Board's Planning for Improvement process helps us identify what our students are doing well, and what areas need further attention.

Our school staff has chosen goals in the areas of literacy, mathematics, and student engagement. We have discovered from looking at student achievement data that our students could benefit from a focus on writing and have been working towards this goal throughout the 2008-2009 year. We want our students to be better able to organize their thoughts and ideas in written communication. This skill will allow them to experience further success in all academic areas. In mathematics, we are focusing our school improvement efforts on developing students' computational procedure abilities. Our final goal is to increase student engagement by improving student attitude towards school life. We feel working on this goal will increase our overall performance in all subject areas.

Below, you will find BLT's plan for improvement for your information. You will see details about what teachers will be focusing on with their students in class and also what teachers will be learning themselves in order to achieve our school goals.

School Goals

Mathematics Goal

To improve student achievement in math by focusing on computational procedures. (With a focus on subtraction and math facts in P-3, multiplication in grade 4 and division in grade 5.)

Strategies

- Build a school wide plan of action for students who are struggling with computation and quick recall of basic facts
- Administer common pre test of computational procedures and mental math outcomes per grade level in October and April
- Review the results of common assessments to inform instruction and discussions in grade level groups
- School-wide math committee made up of one member from each grade level to meet on a monthly basis
- Utilize the board math support team to discuss specific strategies to assist teachers with explicit instruction, best practice, curriculum alignment, supporting struggling students

Literacy Goal

To improve student writing, focusing in year two on ideas, organization and conventions.

Strategies

- The literacy committee will lead discussions with grade levels to develop a curriculum map
- Teachers will have students write daily using the Writer's Workshop model
- Administer writing assessments three times per year at each grade level
- French Immersion classes (3-5) should report on both English and French writing
- Use student, teacher and school wide input to come to a clear understanding of the levels of the rubrics
- Emphasize a balance between reading and writing in the resource program
- Literacy coordinator will assist teachers with writing practices

Engagement Goal

To increase the level of student engagement by improving student attitude toward and participation in school life.

Strategies

- Provide school-wide PEBS training for all staff in September
- Identify and provide support to disengaged students by conducting student and staff surveys by October 15, 2009 and May 1, 2010
- Support from Board personnel and school RCH Team to provide direction and support for conducting student focus groups, taking into consideration areas in the curriculum and student life that might be require additional sensitivity and training. (October 2009)
- Refer students with repeated office referrals to the Program Planning Team monthly
- Have the whole student body learn some key songs to build a sense of community