

New Prospect STEM Academy
School Improvement Council
2014-2015 Report to the Parents

Purpose

The purpose of New Prospect STEM Academy is to educate students to be productive citizens academically and socially.

Vision

The vision of New Prospect STEM Academy is to develop students as problem solvers, both independently and collaboratively, so that they are positive contributors to society.

Mission

The mission of New Prospect STEM Academy is educating students through science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in a literacy-rich environment.

Slogan

We are the high flying...JETS!

Beliefs

We believe that all students deserve a safe, secure, and positive school environment, where learning is the first priority.

We believe that responsibility comes with every right.

We believe that all students learn best through varied instructional strategies using literacy-based and STEM practices.

We believe in celebrating diversity through teaching children to see the world through the eyes and minds of others.

We believe parents, staff, and community members must work together to plan and implement experiences that allow all students to build a strong academic foundation.

We believe in educating the whole child through activities that promote mental, physical, and social growth.

Programs

New Prospect STEM Academy offers a variety of opportunities to enrich students' learning environment. First and foremost, STEM classes are offered to each class once a week in Grades 3-5. Also, STEM lessons are offered daily in classrooms to enhance the Science and Math curriculum through inquiry based lessons supported by our STEM lead teacher. Other opportunities for students include the following:

Clubs & After School Opportunities:

- Art Club
- Chorus
- Volleyball
- Beta Club
- Student Government
- Lego Robotics
- 21st Century Afterschool Program
- Running Club
- Accelerated Math Calculatin' Club
- Step and Dance
- Book Club
- Recycling Club
- Good News Club

Other Support Programs:

- ESOL
- Gifted and Talent Project Challenge Program
- Anderson University Tutors
- AmeriCorps Reading Program
- Accelerated Reader
- Guidance/Counseling
- Speech/Resource Classes
- ERI (Early Reading Intervention)
- Reading Recovery
- Lead Interventionist Teacher
- School Psychologist
- Related Arts Teachers in full rotation (Art, Music, Physical Education, Media Center, Technology/STEM)

Student Recognition

- Top Jets- A school wide program that identifies students for being leaders in their classroom.
- Order of the Scroll- A distinguished writing award. This award is given each 9 weeks to students who exemplify top quality writing.
- Accelerated Reading Awards- High achieving reader award based on number of books read, as well as, completion of the Accelerated Reading Test with 80% or better accuracy.
- Positive Office Referrals- Students recognized for outstanding behavior
- Turbo Jets- Students are selected to participate in this distinguished program based on good citizenship, exemplary grades, and exemplary attendance.
- Jet News- Positive recognition for outstanding students during the Morning Announcements News Show with Dr. Hudson
- Awards Program- Recognition each 9 weeks for Honor Roll and Good Behavior.

Teacher Recognition

One teacher each year is nominated and selected as New Prospect STEM Academy's Teacher of the Year. The Teacher of the Year represents our school in the District Teacher of the Year Program, which recognizes exemplary teachers across the district.

School Goals, Action Plans, and Outcomes

Goal 1: The percentage of our students in grades 3 -5 who score Met and Exemplary as measured by the state assessment in Science, Math, ELA, and Social Studies will increase to 90% by 2017-2018.

Action Plan:

1. Teachers will be provided professional development in all content areas.
2. Teachers will have common planning time to collaborate and discuss best practices in all content areas of instruction.
3. Teachers will be trained on new math curriculum which supports Common Core State Standards.
4. Teachers will use science kits for hands-on instruction.
5. Teachers will follow a balanced literacy approach, including guided reading instruction.
6. The teachers will receive training in Writer's Workshop from Upstate Writing Project.
7. Teachers will increase the amount of primary sources used in social studies instruction.

Outcomes: The district purchased new Math curriculum and provided training for all teachers. Manipulatives and mentor texts were purchased and are being utilized by the teachers. 21st Century Afterschool Program focuses instruction on Math Common Core Hands-On Standards. Science kits emphasizing science and math using Probe Wear was purchased and training is scheduled for November 2013. Grade level sets of guided reading books were purchased in the 2013-2014 school year. The entire staff received professional development in writing instruction from Upstate Writing Project during the 2013-2014 school year.

Goal 2: Embed STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) curriculum into all areas of instruction.

Action Plan:

1. A STEM lead teacher will be hired to provide additional support to classroom teachers. The STEM teacher will model inquiry-based lessons for teachers in all grade levels and provide STEM lessons daily.
2. Teachers will continue to participate in professional development designed to enhance inquiry based teaching and learning.

Outcomes: A full time STEM lead teacher was hired for additional support in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. The STEM teacher teaches in the Related Arts rotation for grades 3-5, assists teachers in all classrooms with Science instruction, as well as provides professional development for all teachers. The STEM teacher attends conferences to continuously stay abreast of new STEM practices.

Goal 3: We will increase safety measures at New Prospect STEM Academy.

Action Plan:

1. Increase the amount of lighting in the teacher's parking lot.
2. Build a security vestibule in the front foyer.
3. School Resource Officer will be hired.

Outcomes: A School Resource Officer was hired for the 2013-14 school year. A security vestibule was completed in August 2013. All visitors must be screened through LobbyGuard and school personnel must unlock two front entrance doors before being allowed to enter the school building. Additional lighting was purchased and installed in the teachers' parking lot, at the front entrance, and around all outside doors. All doors are locked and secured with surveillance cameras.

2012-2013 Test Data

2013 PASS Met and Exemplary scores for Grades 3-5:

Writing: 75%

ELA: 78%

Math: 79%

Science: 77%

Social Studies: 82%

New Prospect STEM Academy is dedicated to teaching students to reach their maximal potential through our very rigorous and high expectations, positive relationships we build with our families, and current best practices that are relevant to our learners. Through these practices we will increase our standardized test scores by 2.5% each year, so that by the 2017-2018 school year, all students will score Met or Exemplary at 90% or better.