

2005-06 Strategic School Profile Narrative Pearson Middle School

EFFORTS TO REDUCE RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND ECONOMIC ISOLATION

Pearson Middle School continued participating in the Project Poetry Live program. Project Poetry Live is a program that serves primarily seventh graders in Northwestern Connecticut. In this program, students from rural communities are brought together to work with students from Waterbury in both language arts and the performing arts. The program provided opportunities for students to write poetry, create visual works of arts from their poetry, create sets, play and compose music and dance. Seventh grade students worked with both professional poets and dancers in residence. The artists and poets participating in the Project Poetry Live project came from diverse backgrounds and had an extensive range of talents. Throughout the school year, groups of students self selected to participate in long term, interdistrict activities focusing on one or more aspect of poetry and/or the performing arts. This exciting initiative culminated into a final dance performance that was choreographed to an original score based on the poetry that the students had written.

EVIDENCE OF SUSTAINED IMPROVEMENTS IN STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since 1994, the most dramatic increase in student performance on the CMT has been in the area of writing. Students have benefited from the development of a comprehensive school improvement plan, professional development targeting instructional strategies, curriculum mapping done in all content areas to assess alignment with CMT/CAPT objectives, revised district assessment schedule and increased instructional time. We have implemented a new language arts curriculum that is aligned with national and state standards. A budgetary priority has been established to purchase nonfiction reading material and curriculum support material. Winsted's students continue to be given increased writing opportunities across all subjects that have included narrative, expository and persuasive writing. Our instructional focus continues to be on providing students with the strategies that enable students to write well-organized, elaborate responses.

Throughout the school year, students are given opportunities to do sustained silent reading. Once again, we have recognized an increase in the number of Pearson Middle School students participating in our summer reading program. We have made it mandatory that all sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students complete a mathematics packet during the summer.

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

Accomplishments:

- Development of a Comprehensive School Improvement Plan that incorporates Curriculum and Instruction, Professional Development, Parental Involvement and Developmental Supervision.
- Collaboration with Gilbert High School for a grade 8 transition plan.
- Development of a comprehensive sixth grade Transition Plan culminating in a barbeque and open house that had over 350 people in attendance.
- Development and implementation of a Pearson Middle School Success Plan to target students in need of academic assistance.
- Development of the 'Academic Probation' plan by the Pearson faculty to immediately address students who show signs of academic difficulty.
- Establishment and implementation of a School-wide Child Study Team.
- Provide tutoring opportunities working with high school students from explorations.
- Participation in Project Poetry Live.
- Development of interdisciplinary units of instruction.

- Awards assemble to recognize student accomplishments.
- Student participation in a variety of clubs (yearbook, drama, computer, art and homework).
- Student Council sponsored dances, Toys for Tots Canned Food Drive, United Way and YMCA donations.
- Increase parental participation in school-wide activities.
- Quarterly publication of the school newsletter, "Panther Press".
- Positive Peers Program that sponsored projects promoting positive involvement in school and the community.
- Sixth grade participation in Nature's Classroom.
- Seventh grade participation in Education Connections Writing Project.
- Student musical "Annie" involved sixty students, thirteen community musicians(orchestra), six faculty, over twenty parent volunteers and a unique use of the high school facilities and technology expertise(lightning/sound/computer) from ten high school student volunteers.
- The entire Pearson faculty attended the New England League of Middle Schools Conference in Providence Rhode Island on March 25, 2006. This was a substantial Professional Development experience to enhance student achievement in the school.