

New Canaan Public Schools
DISTRICT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

2021-2022

District goals and evidence of student learning inform the development of school, department, and individual annual growth plans that are finalized at the beginning of each school year. Annual objectives highlight priorities for the upcoming year although the ongoing, complex work of the district across all departments and domains continues even if not specifically noted below. In addition, annual objectives guide resource allocation and decision-making.

(Sequence does not indicate priority but is for ease of reference)

GOAL 1. INCREASE STUDENT LEARNING AS MEASURED BY MULTIPLE AND VARIED ASSESSMENTS TO ASSURE ALL STUDENTS GRADUATE PREPARED FOR A DYNAMIC AND COMPLEX GLOBAL SOCIETY.

OBJECTIVES

1. District curriculum, instruction, and assessments will reflect local, state, national, and international standards and expectations.
 - a. Provide the resources to continually update and support implementation of curriculum expectations.
 - b. Create and validate district performance assessments that emphasize higher order thinking and complex problem solving.
 - c. As part of ongoing instruction, ensure students are prepared to confidently and successfully participate in next generation assessments in all disciplines.
 - d. Expand opportunities for students to engage in self-assessment, goal setting, conferencing, and collaboration.
 - e. Review current practices in Standards Based Grading (SBG) at Saxe and share feedback from all stakeholders in order to determine future steps with SBG in district.
 - f. Share a presentation with the board to review the district curriculum development process, including an update on legislative changes impacting curriculum.
 - g. Provide periodic updates on student performance relative to standards and the impacts of COVID.

2. All students will meet NCHS graduation standards which include the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in a complex global society.
 - a. Continue to develop the vision of the graduate by identifying and defining skills and dispositions, beginning to explore ways to assess them, and expanding the committee to include Board and community members.
 - b. Implement revised high school graduation requirements including the

- mastery-based portfolio assessments.
 - c. Implement a block schedule at NCHS using a 4 period A/B schedule, provide ongoing professional learning to the faculty/staff, and provide ongoing updates to the Board that include academic, social, emotional, and physical goals and anticipated outcomes for students for current year and consideration in future years.
 - d. Continue investigating the viability of various scheduling options at Saxe with a focus on understanding the anticipated impacts on student health and wellness.
- 3. Continue to review and update alignment between national and state frameworks in science.
 - a. Evaluate the implementation of Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) K-8, focusing on the alignment between the written and taught curriculum.
 - b. Implement the Geo-Physical Science course at NCHS.
 - c. Implement revised Biology units of study, with an emphasis on best practices with NGSS; continue revising additional units of study in Biology
 - d. Continue reviewing curricular alignment with NGSS in chemistry; begin implementation of revised units with an emphasis on best practices with NGSS.
 - e. Initiate a review of the physics curriculum and its alignment with NGSS.
- 4. Establish a district-wide “Innovation Center” focused on identifying, supporting, and sharing innovative practices, particularly in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), and systematizing best practices district-wide.
 - a. Establish priorities, processes, and anticipated outcomes for the innovation center.
 - b. Identify and share resource needs for the 2022-2023 budget cycle.
 - c. Develop a plan to infuse innovative opportunities in STEM for students K-12, focusing on empowering students to explore, discover, and translate new knowledge into unique solutions.
- 5. Revise and implement K-12 Health Curriculum based on crosswalk between National Health Standards, NCPS curriculum, state statutes, and best practices.
 - a. Using the Understanding by Design (UbD) model, implement units of study in Kindergarten.
 - b. Research best models for elective choices in health for HS seniors.
 - c. Evaluate health program in grades 1-4 and 9th grade to ensure alignment between the written and taught curriculum.
 - d. Review the program delivery design at the elementary and high school levels, with a focus on identifying best practices.
 - e. Explore middle school program delivery models for health in grades 5-8.
 - f. Continue regular community outreach regarding health, wellness, and the K-12 program.
 - g. Continue the partnerships with community organizations to best educate all stakeholders on important health topics such as domestic violence, healthy relationships, drug awareness and prevention, etc.

6. All students will graduate with the technological knowledge and skills to succeed in a dynamic and complex global society.
 - a. Support teacher-leaders in their ongoing implementation of innovative and transformational practices with technology with a focus on expanding opportunities for students.
 - b. Monitor the implementation of the digital citizenship curriculum K-12.
 - c. Provide targeted professional learning to support the implementation of learning management systems (LMS) district-wide.

7. Continue to implement Response to Intervention (RTI) at all schools as defined by the NCPS Guidebook in order to differentiate instruction and intervention and to support students in meeting performance standards and behavioral expectations.
 - a. Provide professional learning district-wide on the use of universal screening tools to identify opportunities for differentiated instruction
 - b. Each student will demonstrate continuous progress on an annual basis as measured by standards-based assessments and district benchmarks.
 - c. Resource specialists and teachers will use progress monitoring and data analysis protocols to develop, track, and share information on the effectiveness of research-based interventions.
 - d. District K-12 RTI Committee will meet to review and revise district guidebook and process.
 - e. Continue to use Social, Academic and Personal (SAPL) Framework to guide social emotional and behavioral interventions, particularly Tier 2 and 3 interventions.
 - f. Monitor and support the RTI services provided to English Language Learner (EL) students.

8. Continue revisions on K-12 music and art curriculum based on crosswalk between National Core Standards, NCPS Curriculum and best practices.
 - a. Following the Understanding by Design (UbD) model, continue developing units of study K-4, 5-8, and 9-12.
 - b. Continue to evaluate current staffing and determine best models of instruction for music and art K-4, 5-8 and 9-12.
 - c. Make necessary adjustments across the Visual and Performing Arts program to maximize health and safety given the challenges of the COVID pandemic.

GOAL 2. IMPROVE ACHIEVEMENT, SERVICE, AND RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH COMMUNICATION THAT IS RESPONSIVE, CLEAR, TIMELY, AND INCLUSIVE.

OBJECTIVES

1. Continue implementation of the comprehensive district communication plan that incorporates feedback about communication from the community.
2. Implement a new website and other appropriate venues to communicate K-12 curriculum to all stakeholders.
3. Implement communication policies and procedures related to recent legislation.
4. Research and implement innovative practices in school district communications.
5. Together with the Board of Education, advocate for the needs of New Canaan

- students locally, regionally, and statewide through active participation in statewide committees and frequent communication with policy-makers.
6. Maintain the “Charting our Course” website to keep the community informed regarding COVID-19, including protocols, policy, and decisions.

GOAL 3. PROMOTE AND SUPPORT INNOVATIVE AND EXEMPLARY RESEARCH-BASED PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES IN ORDER TO CONTINUOUSLY ENHANCE TEACHING AND EXTEND LEARNING.

OBJECTIVES

1. Continue to utilize the New Canaan Teacher Evaluation and Professional Learning (TEPL) and Leaders Evaluation and Professional Learning (LEPL) as mandated by the State of Connecticut.
 - a. Provide professional learning opportunities for administrators and other leaders to extend their professional knowledge and calibrate their practices as described in the Effective Teaching and Effective Leading Frameworks.
 - b. Continue to evaluate the effect of evaluation plans on role responsibilities, in particular of administrators who are also charged with implementing multiple mandates, including school climate, special education, intervention services, safety, behavioral and attendance monitoring and reporting, and student performance.
 - c. Continue to implement effective coaching practices with the Curriculum Leadership Council (CLC) and other key instructional leaders district-wide.

GOAL 4. PROMOTE A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT THAT FOSTERS RESPECT, ETHICAL BEHAVIOR, AND RESPONSIBLE GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP.

OBJECTIVES

1. Review, revise and implement school and district climate plans system-wide.
 - a. Continue to implement Emotional Intelligence (RULER) in grades K-12, being responsive to the current SEL needs of students during and after the Coronavirus pandemic.
 - b. Review the 9-12 Connections lessons to include application of EI (RULER) skills and a focus on coping strategies.
 - c. Continue to provide Professional Learning opportunities in research-based prevention, student wellness, interventions, and reporting protocols.
 - d. Administer school climate surveys
 - e. Develop clear plans and protocols to provide increased support to students and families who have struggled academically and/or emotionally during the pandemic.
 - f. Continue to offer parent education opportunities on EI at the elementary, middle school and high school levels
2. Design and implement revised school start and end times, focusing on student health and wellness and responsive to stakeholder feedback.
 - a. Establish an implementation committee, comprised of faculty, parents, board members, and other stakeholders, focused on working through the challenges inherent in a system-wide change.

- b. Adhere to guiding principles established by stakeholders throughout the process.
 - c. With the help of the implementation committee, identify and examine key metrics in order to continuously improve the new school schedules.
 - d. Explore, communicate, and implement opportunities for before and after school programming for students and families.
3. Understand and communicate efforts to expand and increase educational diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) throughout the district, with a long-term focus on identifying and remedying gaps and strengthening ongoing efforts.
- a. Initiate a process including the Board of Education, and facilitated by a DEI content expert, to develop a district-wide statement along with long- and short-term DEI goals.
 - b. Continue to provide professional development for faculty and staff focused on increasing awareness of issues of equity, improving cultural understanding, and increasing culturally proficient and responsive educational practices.
 - c. Highlight existing educational opportunities available to students and, with student input, develop plans that are focused on increasing sensitivity towards issues of equity, diversity and inclusion and preparing them as global citizens.
 - d. Continue partnering with community agencies and experts to develop and/or offer parent education on issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion.
 - e. Continue to provide students with culturally responsive learning experiences and expand the implementation of culturally responsive literature across the curriculum.
 - f. Research and consider participation in the Open Choice Enrollment Program beginning in the 2022-2023 school year.
 - g. Provide regular updates to the Board of Education.
4. Continue to analyze and update safety and security plans and practices.
- a. Update security and safety protocols to be in alignment with adjusted practices due to COVID (i.e. outdoor classrooms).
 - b. Together with the Town Public Safety Committee, prepare and implement action plans, training initiatives, follow up reports and resource requests.
 - c. Implement, as appropriate, recommendations from expert safety and security reviews and audits.
 - d. Continue to review, analyze and accordingly update policies, protocols, and practices associated with safety and security.
 - e. Continue discussions on the development of a MOU between the NCBOE and New Canaan Police Department regarding a canine policy.

GOAL 5: PROMOTE AND PRACTICE GOOD STEWARDSHIP FOR ALL DISTRICT RESOURCES IN A MANNER THAT SUPPORTS SAFE AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS AND OPTIMIZES STUDENT LEARNING.

OBJECTIVES

1. Develop and implement responsive COVID-19 plans to accommodate staff, students, families and the community based on guidelines issued by the State of Connecticut the Center for Disease Control, and the state and local Health Departments.
2. Continue to develop and present a thoughtful and clear budget request to the Board, town bodies, and community.
3. Continue working to establish and maintain an efficient and effective budget process.
4. Update and review the facilities survey, along with present and future enrollment projections, in order to revise, as needed, the 5-year capital project look-ahead.
 - a. Review enrollment projections and facility plans and share findings.
 - b. Report on the current status and long-range needs of the school facilities and incorporate into budget reports and requests.
5. Regularly update the Board on COVID related needs, with a focus on current and anticipated needs and their related fiscal ramifications
6. Working independently and collaboratively with the Town, identify efficient and effective cost-saving opportunities.
 - a. Communicate COVID related expenses to the Board of Finance as appropriate.
 - b. Maintain records of COVID related expenditures for potential reimbursement, including the use of COVID-19 related grants
 - c. Communicate regularly with the Town Director of Finance regarding budgetary management and opportunities for efficiencies.
 - d. Identify efficiencies and offsets in order to continue using district resources (i.e. solar, natural gas, building management systems, etc.) as effectively as possible while maintaining and enhancing student learning.
 - e. Continue working to evaluate and implement opportunities for energy efficiency across the district in a fiscally prudent and sustainable manner.
7. Develop and execute on a plan to renovate the NCHS planetarium to increase its functionality as an immersive learning environment for all students K-12 and for the greater New Canaan community.