

# 2006-2007 – Annual Report



We instituted the first Continuous School Improvement Plan at Oakdale 2005-2006. The purpose of the plan was to focus our efforts on a small number of goals and dedicate our time and resources to meeting our targets. Research tells us that narrowing focus to just two goals can dramatically increase the progress we make. It also energized and unified the staff. Below is a description of our efforts and results of our second year of our plan.

## Reading

Our academic goal was to improve the reading level of all students. Each grade level set specific targets based on the Developmental Reading Assessment in Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade and on Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) in grades 2-5.

Grade	Target	Actual
Kindergarten	85% of students will reach DRA level 1	91.5% of students achieved level 3
1 <sup>st</sup> grade	80% of students will reach DRA level 16	75% of students achieved level 16
2 <sup>nd</sup> grade	65% or more of students would make their growth target in reading	52% of students met their growth target in reading
3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	Students would achieve a median RIT score of 203 on MAP (one year's growth)	Students achieved a median RIT score of 203
4 <sup>th</sup> grade	Students would achieve a median RIT score of 208 on MAP (one year's growth)	Students achieved a median RIT of 202
5 <sup>th</sup> grade	Students would achieve a median RIT score of 216 on MAP (one year's growth)	Students achieved a median RIT of 213

For a more comprehensive report of our school's performance on MAP and how we measure up to other schools in the district go to the MAP Report.

In order to meet our goals we implemented a number of action plans.

1. Provide ongoing professional development to teachers in the area of mini-lessons for reading, matching readers to "just right" books, and interactive read a-louds.
2. Recruited community members and the Tartan High School Child Development class to be reading tutors to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders in our Literacy Connection program.
3. Implemented a calendar of reading contests and events for students.
4. Sent home monthly newsletter, *Reading Connection*, with helpful tips for parents to encourage reading at home.
5. Increased our classroom libraries using donated books and money from the PTO.

## Safe & Welcoming Environment

Our school community goal focused on having a safe, welcoming environment. We have done a lot of research into social/behavior programs over the last few years. Based on results that two other schools in our district have seen, some of our staff members' own experiences, and the academic research, the staff voted in the spring of 2004-2005 to become a "Responsive Classroom" school. Since then we have been working hard to train all classroom teachers as well as a number of support staff in the Responsive Classroom philosophy.

There are seven basic principles underlying this approach:

1. The social curriculum is as important as the academic curriculum.
2. *How* children learn is as important as *what* they learn.
3. The greatest cognitive growth occurs through social interaction.
4. There is a specific set of social skills that children need in order to be successful academically and socially.
5. Knowing the children we teach individually, culturally, and developmentally is as important as knowing the content we teach.
6. Knowing the parents of the children we teach is important to knowing the children.
7. How the adults at school work together to accomplish their mission is as important as individual competence.

Based on these principles students experienced "Morning Meeting" again this year. It is a daily routine that builds community, creates a positive climate for learning, and reinforces social and academic skills. We also successfully implemented monthly all-school morning-meetings to build school-wide community.

In addition to starting the implementation process for Responsive Classroom we have taken other measures to improve the safety of staff and students and maintain a welcoming environment for everyone.

1. Hired CLIMB Theater to do an anti-bullying presentation to all students. The principal and social worker had class discussions with all classes about bullying. We put up posters about bullying throughout the school.
2. Created an email list of parents. Sent out Tiger Tales, PTO communications, and Site Council information on a regular basis (until email system change).
3. Improved security measures by locking all school doors except the main doors during school hours and requiring all parents and visitors to wear a visitor's badge.
4. Implemented 5 fire drills, 5 lock-down drills, and a tornado drill.
5. Ten staff members attended ongoing training throughout the year "Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity."
6. Added a parenting help section to our school website.
7. Piloted an automated call system to contact Oakdale families about important events like MCAs, conferences, and open house.
8. Went to a WEEKLY school newsletter instead of twice a month.

Target	Actual
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100% of classroom teachers will implement morning meeting (05-06)	100% of classroom teachers reported implementing morning meeting
100% of classroom teachers will implement the components of Responsive Classroom (07-08)	95% of classroom teachers were trained and prepared to implement in 2006-2007
Increase % of parents who feel welcome at Oakdale from 87% to 90%	95% of parents who responded felt welcome at Oakdale
Increase % of parents who feel their child is safe at Oakdale from 85% to 88%	87% of parents who responded to the survey felt their child was safe
200 families will complete the parent survey (2006-2007)	135 families completed the survey (nearly double from 2005-2006)

As you can see, we achieved several of our targets. There is still work so be done however. We will continue our efforts of improving the reading level of all students and having a safe, welcoming environment in 2007-2008. Please refer to the Continuous School Improvement Plan for 2007-2008 to see what is in store for this school year.