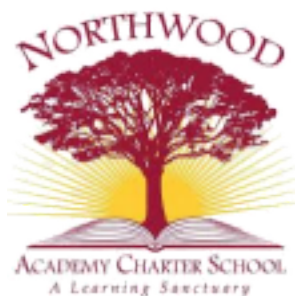


2023 - 2024

Northwood Academy Charter School

Principal's Report
December 2023



Principal's Report- Academics

Strategic Plans:

Goals:

“Big Rocks” = *Quality Instruction + School Culture & Climate + Family Engagement*

Quality Instruction -

Student outcomes such as benchmark scores, growth scores, and additional assessment data have traditionally been the focus of school goals nationwide. In order to work towards a measurable data goal, Northwood will focus on quality instruction for the remainder of the 2024 school year and analyze student outcomes as an indicator of quality instruction.

School Culture & Climate-

School Culture is usually identified as the discipline system in a particular school setting. School Culture and Climate encompasses a broader scope than just student behavior. The School Climate speaks to how people feel at Northwood (Students, Staff, and Families). The School Culture speaks to how people act at Northwood (Students, Staff, and Families). In order to foster a positive environment for students, a focus for the remainder of the 2024 School Year must be School Culture and Climate for all stakeholders.

Family Engagement-

While Northwood has typically experienced robust family engagement, there is also a space to rebuild trust with the school. An indicator of a repaired family engagement model is the implementation of a highly active parent association that can collaborate with Northwood Administration on specific activities and events that benefit students.

Baseline data (instructional, survey data, relative stats) and the aforementioned “Big Rocks”, will provide a foundation for appropriate goals setting and an overall strategic plan for the following school year. As the administrative team internalizes the data necessary to goal set, the ‘Big Rocks’ provide staff with a vision for highlighted top priorities from January - June.

Iready

i-Ready Diagnostic is a test designed to help teachers support students and provide a path of instruction for every learner. The adaptive test adjusts its questions to each student's needs. Each question a student sees is individualized based on their answer to the previous question. A series of correct answers will result in slightly harder questions, while a series of incorrect answers will yield slightly easier questions. This provides essential information for teachers about what the student knows and what they are ready to learn.

The following are the Iready results for the second diagnostic window along with the comparative growth analysis.

IREADY TESTING WINDOW WILL CLOSE 12.15.2023

Assessment results will be added following the completion of the testing window

(INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK)

Curriculum -

READING

Reading K-3 continues to utilize Foundations and Into Reading as the prescribed reading curriculum for K- 3. Teachers have received the initial Into Reading training and will receive the second training on January 3rd (Full Day PD) during the differentiated PD block.

K- 2 currently uses 2 reading programs. The first is Foundations which is a Wilson Reading product primarily designed to address Phonemic Awareness, & Decoding (Learning how to Read). The second reading program is Into Reading which is an HMH product designed to provide students with literature and reading comprehension.

3rd grade - In 3rd grade students primarily used the Into Reading Curriculum to address Grammar, Phonics, Comprehension and Writing. In third grade the instructional focus in reading shifts from decoding words (learning how to read) to comprehension (reading to learn).

Pilot

Northwood is pleased to announce the ELA curriculum pilot for grades 4th - 8th, EL Education. EL is a standards-aligned K-8 Language Arts curriculum, one of several open educational resources designed for the science of how students learn to read. It features embedded social-emotional learning, and ensures all students have access to complex, culturally affirming topics and texts. This curriculum is currently being piloted in 4th, and 7th grade ELA classes. Administration in collaboration with teachers will provide feedback on EL Education by the beginning of the 3rd marking period.

MATH

K-8 continues to use GO Math as the mathematics program across all grades. GO Math is an HMH product that is Common Core Aligned designed to make conceptual math more approachable for students.

Pilot

Northwood is also pleased to announce that after careful consideration Envision Math (A Saavas product) is the curriculum pilot for 2024 (Spring). Envision math pilots have already begun in 3rd, 5th, and 8th grade classrooms, with teacher resources and student consumables.

Envision math provides a deep conceptual understanding aided by visual models, personalized learning, and vertical alignment from Kindergarten through Grade 8.

Envision Math has also provided an Algebra 1 curriculum that has been added to this year's pilot as an enrichment tool for 8th grade students who demonstrate advanced skills in the area of mathematics. Providing students with this enrichment opportunity will further motivate students academically while broadening their opportunities in High School by providing the Algebra 1 Keystone while in 8th grade.

Ms. Meghan Curley is the Math Interventionist and will lead the Algebra 1 pilot for Spring 2024.

SCHEDULES & INCREASED INSTRUCTIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Middle school students in 7th and 8th grade were provided a new schedule for the second marking period that features 90 minute blocks in ELA and Math, additional workshops for test prep as well as opportunities for auxiliary groups such as social emotional lessons, student government, and study hall.

Field Lessons

In order to provide 8th grade students with experiential learning outside of the classroom, students will participate in Field lessons in the areas of social studies and science that directly align to 8th Grade PA Core standards. The first Field lesson took place on Friday December 8th at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. The standard covered during that Field lesson was as follows:

Standard - 5.1.8.D

Summarize the basic principles and ideals within documents and the roles played by the framers as found in significant documents:

- Declaration of Independence
- United States Constitution
- Bill of Rights
- Pennsylvania Constitution

Northwood will continue to secure Field lessons throughout the 2024 Spring season to provide additional learning in the areas of science and social studies.

TUTORING

Northwood is pleased to announce a partnership with Byrd House Consulting Group, that will provide families with data driven after school tutoring in grades K-8. Byrd House Consulting will utilize Northwood staff to conduct data analysis, professional development and program implementation in order to provide effective tutoring services.

JOUNCE PARTNERS

Jounce coaches are nearing their first cycle of instructional coaching and have received positive feedback from several educators. Over the last few weeks coaches have assisted teachers with classroom management technique, lesson structures, and best practices aligned with SKYROCKET Teacher Observation Rubric.

SKYROCKET

Skyrocket is a teacher coaching framework that aligns Foundational Teacher Actions with Student outcomes. Skyrocket categorizes these actions into three observable strands: Strand 1- Classroom Culture, Strand 2 - Content Mastery, and Strand 3- Rigor. Implementing a framework with observable teacher actions will provide Northwood educators with objective feedback that can improve both teacher actions and student actions. Teachers will be provided with Skyrocket training during January 3rd, 2024 Professional Development. Skyrocket strands will be reinforced through informal walkthroughs by administration as well as coaching opportunities with JOUNCE Partners.

Below is a proposed Observation Schedule including Formal and Informal Observation windows:

Observation Schedule -

[Rollout - January 3, 2024](#)

Informal Observation/ Walkthrough Window - January 22nd - February 29

[Announced] Walkthroughs (informal) [Norming/ All Admin]

Jan 22 - Feb 2nd - Window 1 (Classroom Culture)

[Unannounced] Walkthrough (informal) [Direct Report]
February 5th - February 29 - Window 2 (All Strands)

Formal Observation Window - April 1 - May 31st

Formal Observation Window 1 - April 1 - April 19th

- (All Non- Tenured Staff/ Tenured Teacher optional)

Formal Observation Window 2 - May 13th - May 31st

- (All Tenured and Non- Tenured Teachers)

LITERACY !!!!

Scholastic Book Fair -

A Scholastic Book Fair was successfully held December 5th - December 8th. This school year scholastic book fair was strategically held during report card conferences (Tuesday and Wednesday). Acceptable payment was also revised to not only include the electronic e-wallet funds, but also credit cards and apple pay to provide convenience for families. Another highlight is the assignment of Northwood as a Title 1 school with scholastic book fair which provided students with \$1 and \$5 book options. The school community coordinator also collaborated with the school social worker to ensure students identified as McKinny Vento at Northwood (students who struggle with homelessness and transitional housing) could have access to new books at no cost.

Reading Nook -

Through the purchase of additional books through scholastic book fair and the generous donation from Holy Family University, Northwood's 'Book Nook' located under stairwell 6 is equipped with over 500 books ! Northwood continues to develop the space into a cozy environment conducive to independent reading for students in the K- 3 community. Upon the completion of the first 'Book Nook', Northwood will outfit another location to appeal to upper level grade bands.

SCHOOL CULTURE

School Culture is impacted by clear behavior systems and expectations, as well as opportunities for joy and appropriate incentives. With the addition of 2 additional deans Northwood now has personnel directly responsible for enforcing those systems and expectations. A roll out of the revised code of conduct infractions list for Level I, II, and III infractions have been created and are ready to present to staff at the January 3rd, 2024 full day Professional Development. The Revised School Facing Code of Conduct is as follows:

■ [NACS SY 23-24 School Facing Code of Conduct \(Counts, Definitions, Codes\).docx.pdf](#)

NACS Culture Team consists of 3 Dean of Students: Dean Jones assisting grade bands K- 3, Dean Johnson assisting grade bands 4- 6, and Dean Lewis assisting grades 7th & 8th grade. All Deans strive to be well versed in the appropriate outcomes for all students and utilize the Code of Conduct Infraction tool as a guide to provide equity for students across all grade levels.

As their first sponsored event, NACS Culture team will be hosting a Winter Dance on December 20th, 2023 for grades K- 7 with specific entry requirements such as 95% attendance, no suspensions, etc. The School dance will feature a DJ, games, dancing and more.

AEDY (Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth) -

Northwood solidified a partnership with Anthony Wayne Academy as its designated AEDY placement as of December 1st to serve as an alternative option to expulsion.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Fall Fest - Wednesday October 25th

- Families joined Northwood staff at Simpson Field for Pony rides, Inflatable bouncy houses, games, music funnel cake and more. Entry and activities were free for participants.

Community Check In - Wednesday November 15th, 2023

- Community Check ins take place every other month.
- Provide families with additional touchpoint for communication
- Provided via Zoom (Virtual Platform) for convenience to working families

Turkey Giveaway - Wednesday November 18th 2023

Can Food Drive for Chosen 300

- Northwood families participated in a Turkey Giveaway designed to identify families struggling with food insecurity and transitional housing.
 - 200 Turkeys were given out to the Northwood Community.
 - Students collected over 200 canned goods and non-perishable food.

Urban Air - November 29th 2023

- Students and their families participated in a family fun engagement opportunity at a trampoline park in Willow Grove free of charge.

Report Card Conferences - December 5th & 6th

- Northwood held in person and virtual report card conferences on Tuesday December 5th and Wednesday December 6th for grades K- 8.

Next Engagement Opportunity for Families -

- Honor Roll Breakfast - December 22nd, 2023. * Invite Only*
- January 17th, 2024 - Special Education Workshop-
 - “Understanding the Evaluation Process”
- January 17th, 2024 - Community Meeting (zoom)

