

UNFOLDING POTENTIAL

THE DUBUQUE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

STRATEGIC PLAN

It is time to focus.

To think big.

To stretch ourselves.

To personalize learning.

To work together.

To innovate.

To engage our stakeholders.

To unlock student potential.

To empower our employees.

To maximize our resources.

**It is time to create the
21st century learner.**

STATUS REPORT: JUNE 2013

2012-2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A Year of Planning

- Launched the new strategic plan and completed a district-wide rollout
- Developed a long-term technology plan to increase student access to technology and prepare educators to incorporate these tools into instruction
- Developed a plan for future building projects utilizing one-cent sales tax funding and completed Dalzell Field
- Initiated discussion of a community aquatic center and started feasibility study
- Implemented Iowa Core language arts standards using LEAD21 reading curriculum district wide in grades K-5
- Increased frequency and consistency of communication with all stakeholders
- Developed new and continued existing involvement in community initiatives aligned with the district strategic plan
- Focused on creating a greater sense of collaboration across the district

// The challenge with being an initiator of projects is that you are never, ever done. //

- SETH GODIN

2013-2014 PRIORITY INITIATIVES

A Year of Implementation

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

- Offer an activities bus that provides transportation for 6-12 students participating in extracurricular offerings [more students will have access to after-school activities]
- Launch a Challenging Behavior Team to support K-8 student success [additional intervention will be available sooner for students in need]
- Pilot the reporting of performance character to middle school parents [middle school report cards will include measurements of learning behaviors]

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Offer college math courses at Senior and Hempstead [students will have access to on-site, advanced academic opportunities delivered through a partnership with Loras College]
- Provide planning, facilities and technology support for the inaugural Summer Reading Academy as part of the community-wide third-grade reading initiative [50 students will receive summer reading assistance not previously available]
- Engage parents and families in a district-wide effort to promote the importance of regular school attendance [parents will be educated on why attendance matters]
- Implement the state METS grant to better prepare special education students to be college and career ready [focus will be on decreasing drop outs and increasing employability of special education students]
- Partner with City of Dubuque and the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque to utilize AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers to implement joint priorities [three VISTA staff members were funded to implement initiatives of the third-grade reading campaign]

“We have little choice but to move beyond quality and seek remarkable, connected, and new. Remarkable, as you’ve already figured out, demands initiative.”

- SETH GODIN

EFFECTIVE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- Update 59 computer labs and add over 1,000 tablets, new lab furniture and enhanced wireless access across the district through the technology plan [students will use significantly more technology in classrooms that are designed to accommodate its use]
- Enhance facilities, with a priority on the Hempstead renovation, Kennedy renovation and others [new learning spaces will better meet facility needs for educating students]
- Launch the new finance system on July 1 [24/7 access to up-to-date information from anywhere with internet access]

EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE

- Expand the 21st Century Learning Groups to 72 secondary teachers [more teachers will be trained on the best ways to use technology in the classroom]
- Begin implementation of Iowa’s teacher quality initiatives based on state reform measures, including peer review and teacher leadership opportunities [teachers will collaborate to give feedback and foster better teaching]
- Train 6-12 staff in issues surrounding sexual violence through the STEP grant [staff will be better prepared to address areas of concern in today’s society]

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

- Expand alternative education support with additional life coach, tech coach and counselor for the ALC/Connect and launch a new 10th grade at-risk program [students in the alternative setting will have more resources available to them to achieve success]
- Implement a new eighth-grade digital literacy curriculum [eighth graders will gain new collaboration, presentation and communication skills needed to prepare them for high school and beyond]
- Integrate the Common Core with Response to Intervention to identify and respond to learning and behavior challenges [staff will be able to better respond to the individual learning needs of students]