



Harding Township School
District
Goals Update #2
2022-2023 School Year

February 13th, 2023
Harding Township Board of Education Meeting
Dr. Matthew A. Spelker, Superintendent



Harding Township Mission Statement

The Harding Township School provides a strong educational foundation which inspires students to achieve academic excellence. Our dedicated faculty stimulates intellectual growth using a challenging curriculum with a supportive learning environment. We encourage students to become self-directed, life-long learners who are well prepared for the academic and social challenges of the future.

HTS District Goals Creation

- ❑ The HTS Board retreat was held on June 16th, 2022.
- ❑ Charlene Peterson of NJ School Boards guided the conversation.
- ❑ Along with Ms. Peterson, the Board of Education and Superintendent created four goals for this academic school year.
- ❑ The four district goals were approved by the BOE at its August 29th board meeting.

District Goals Creation

The district goals were created with the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan in mind.

The Strategic Plan identifies student-centered goals including academic achievement and varied opportunities for enhancing the learning environment. The Strategic Plan also identifies social and emotional learning opportunities that will help to create well-rounded students and citizens. Finally, the Strategic Plan addresses the need for our students, faculty, and staff to address wellness.

Harding Township School District Goals

→ Goal #1:

Strategic Plan Goal Area: Identify Needs/Personalized Learning

- To identify learning gaps and measure the academic progress of our students through the administration of pre- and post-grade-level assessments in Reading, Math, and Writing that correlate with the NJSL standards and Reader's/Writer's Workshop.
 - a. Reading progress will be measured by a DRA reading assessment administered to all K-2 students. Ninety percent (90%) of all K-2 students will be reading at grade level or will move up a grade level in the post-assessment results. All grade 3-8 students will be assessed using the STAR assessment. Ninety percent (90%) of all students will achieve grade level performance or improve by at least one grade level from their baseline assessment.
 - b. Math progress will be assessed using the STAR assessment which will be administered to all grade 3-8 students. Ninety percent (90%) of all grade 3-8 students shall achieve grade level performance or improve by at least one grade level from their baseline assessment.
 - c. Writing progress will be measured by a district developed writing assessment administered to all K-8 students. Ninety percent (90%) of all K-8 students shall improve one point (one quintile) on the grade-level District Writing Assessment in the post-assessment results. Students scoring a 5 shall be counted as having met the goal.

District Goal #1: Update On Progress

In the first half of the school year:

- 1) Baseline and mid-year testing has taken place regarding our students' writing, reading and math skills. Testing has taken place using our STAR/Renaissance assessment, district writing assessment, and various reading assessments including, but not limited to, the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) and Dibels.
- 2) Start Strong assessments have been given to students in grades 3-8 in ELA and Math. These positive results were reported out to the HTS community at our January 23rd BOE meeting.
- 3) These baseline and mid-year assessments will provide a guidepost for measurement of achievement when compared with assessments given in the spring.

Harding Township School District Goals

→ Goal # 2:

Strategic Plan Goal Areas: Future-Ready Instruction and Curriculum and Well-Rounded Student

Continue to expand student exploration opportunities, such as (examples) the Performing Arts, Husky TV, debate, a student newsletter, and other feasible collaborative projects that empower students to become active participants in their learning.

District Goal #2: Update On Progress

The goal to provide our students opportunities in the Performing Arts and other areas has already been addressed by our activities in school:

- Shakespeare- 8th Grade performance
- Elementary and Middle School Play
- Husky TV episodes
- Return of Field Trips to each grade level
- Circus Yoga/Artist in Residence
- Middle School students competed in the Future Cities Competition
- Superintendent attended a robotics competition at Chatham High School to assess HTS' future membership.

Harding Township School District Goals

→ Goal # 3

Strategic Plan Goal Areas: Facilities and Safety

Work with the appropriate local, county, and state authorities to assess the safety/security of the district's buildings and grounds, protocols/guidelines/practices, and continue to foster a safe learning environment.

District Goal #3: Update On Progress

The goal to work on safety and protocols/guidelines has been addressed by:

- The Superintendent has attended multiple meetings of the Office of Emergency Management-OEM to prepare for an emergency drill with various first responders.
- The OEM drill has been rescheduled for the spring.
- Evacuation and emergency drills have been conducted within school hours and the parent community has been notified that the drills have been completed.
- Professional Development hours have been provided to, and completed by, the faculty and staff regarding health and safety issues.
- Over 25 faculty and staff were trained in CPR and the use of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator).
- The school nurse for HTS has been trained in the use of Narcan and the school has been provided with free doses.
- Principal and Superintendent attended a professional development seminar at the Morris County Safety complex. Also in attendance was the HTPD acting Chief Gromek and two of his Lieutenants.

Harding Township School District Goals

→ Goal # 4:

Strategic Plan Goal Area: Identify Needs/Personalized Learning

To articulate student learning differentiation strategies currently utilized, and to further challenge and enhance learning for each student based on their individual needs, strengths, and interests.

District Goal #4: Update On Progress

HTS remains committed to further challenge and enhance learning for each student based on their individual needs, strengths, and interests.

To achieve this goal we have done the following so far:

- We began the after-school Harding Academy which provides extra-help for students.
- The TSA program has been started for elementary and middle school students providing an enrichment opportunity for students in grades 5-8.
- We have begun planning for the creation of a Robotics team for Harding middle school students.
- Homework Helpers is operating with middle school students assisting elementary students. High enrollment required another faculty member to be hired.
- Implemented the Linkit system to provide a dashboard of educational data to inform instruction
- Attended Professional Development regarding Linkit that will allow teachers to use the system more efficiently. Attended by Principal, LDTC-Child Study Team, and Superintendent 2/2/23.

Harding Township School District Goal Update

- Half way through the school year the district has made great progress in achieving our stated goals and objectives for this school year.
- All baseline and mid-year assessments have been completed.
- Teachers are using this baseline and mid-year data to inform their instruction and provide the needed assistance and differentiated instruction for our students.
- Our students have been afforded a number of opportunities in the Performing Arts and through Husky TV to enhance their educational opportunities.
- Various learning opportunities have begun and are being planned that will provide our students with collaborative projects that empower students to become active participants in their learning.
- Safety planning and review of protocols has already begun at the administrative and faculty levels.
- Quest-Future Cities Competition and a Debate Competition in the Spring, will add to the list of educational opportunities for our Harding students.

Harding Township District Goal Update #2

→ Questions from the Board members?

→ Questions from the school community?

→ Next goal update presentation will be at the May 22nd 2023 BOE Meeting.