

Stratham Memorial



School



SAU 16 Vision Statement

To provide a rigorous and comprehensive education that will prepare our students for diverse post-secondary educational opportunities, a competitive workplace, and active civic participation.

SAU 16 Mission Statement

To help students gain knowledge and skills that build intellect, character, and a lifelong thirst for learning.

SMS Mission Statement

We exist to inspire every learner every day.

Guiding Statement

“One who learns from one who is learning drinks from a running stream.” – Seletz Tribe

Design and Philosophy:

Goal: The committee believes that 21st century literacy and knowledge of technology are core skills and should be considered an important part of the curriculum. The SAU should commit to developing paperless practices. Ones that support collaboration, connectivity and the development of learning networks that will extend beyond the formal education SAU 16 provides.

*Provide more for students to move among levels, courses, disciplinary tracks before and after courses have begun.

- ACTION*SMS>Every student achieves at the highest expectation of skill and ability in all classrooms

*Create a committee to explore transitions between the elementary schools and the middle school, and between the middle school and the high school.

- ACTION*SMS>Each Spring CMS sends school Administration to meet with Grade 5 staff
- ACTION*SMS>Each Spring CMS Principal presents at the May PTO meeting
- ACTION*SMS>Each Spring CMS hosts a 3 hour visit for Grade 5 students
- ACTION*SMS>Each Spring Special Education/Section 504 meetings for Grade 5 students are conducted at CMS
- ACTION*SMS>Each Spring CMS hosts a Parent Night for transitioning Grade 5 Parents
- ACTION*SMS>Each Spring additional communication occurs through Guidance, Nurse, Title One and Building Administration
- ACTION*SMS>Administrator meets with CMS 504 Co-ordinator
- ACTION*SMS>Each Fall SMS sends to CMS information regarding incoming 6th graders for budgeting purposes

- ACTION*SMS>Educational records are transferred to CMS
- ACTION*SMS>Creation of clusters/cohorts of students for placement considerations

Governance:

Goal: To welcome and encourage continued discussion and ideas that will help SAU 16 govern with increased efficiency and clarity.

*Continue the community-wide discussion to identify ways to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the SAU governing structure.

- ACTION*SMS>Administrative Team and Faculty are involved on SAU initiatives/committees
- ACTION*SMS>School Board adopts policies as per recommendation of SAU/Joint Board

*SAU 16 schools should consider combining/sharing contracts where/when feasible to streamline and consolidate the time consuming negotiation processes that currently take place throughout the SAU. The intent of this recommendation is to encourage schools with similar existing contracts to consider combining forces to negotiate future contracts.

- ACTION*SMS>Attempts to maintain services through school based programs/personnel have existed. This includes share personnel with Special Education (Occupational Therapist/ Physical Therapist), Music Educator, Deaf Educator and an English Language Learner Educator (ELL) support professionals.

*Investigate shared services provided by SAU 16, specifically technology and facilities related services, to identify ways to improve level of service and efficiency. It is recommended that the existing ERCSD Technology and Facilities (including purchasing) committees expand their efforts to focus on these SAU 16

wide shared services with the goal of centralizing/streamlining and improving efficiency.

- ACTION*SMS>We continue to work with the Technology Services Department to explore, research and reduce costs when necessary regarding device/equipment purchasing.
- ACTION*SMS>Maintains an on-site Technology Service Technician on a daily basis, five days each week.
- ACTION*SMS>Utilizes the SAU Food Service Program when applicable to purchase food goods in bulk.
- ACTION*SMS>Maintains its own Director of Buildings and Grounds; however, various opportunities for moving/storing of equipment/furniture has been supported with assistance from SAU 16 personnel

Lifestyles:

Goal: To maintain an assessment of the lifestyle of non-academic aspect of students' lives in the SAU 16 schools – what they eat, how and if they exercise, and how we stimulate their hearts and minds with the fine arts.

*SAU 16 schools will provide a healthy environment for our students, faculty and staff with a yearly inspection of the physical plant for mold, mildew, ventilation, pests, and other environmental problems.

- ACTION*SMS>Conducts yearly inspections of the physical plant; Air and Water quality test are administered systematically.
- ACTION*SMS>Has established a 'Wellness Committee" that meets regularly (Bi-monthly) that includes Nurse, Food Service Director, Administration, Parents, Staff and School Board Member

- ACTION*SMS>Has created a “Common Concerns Committee” with representation from the Teachers’ Association and Administration regarding school environment/material concerns that meets as needed.
- ACTION*SMS>Continues to reflect change by incorporating the elements of New Hampshire 5210 (5 fruits/vegetables daily, 2 hours of screen time daily, 1 hour of physical activity, beverages that contain zero (0) sugars.
- ACTION*SMS>Implemented the Anthem/Blue Cross Blue Shield ‘Get Active. Get Fit’ Challenge across all grade levels.

*All food offerings including vending machines in the SAU 16 schools will comply with the gold standard A list from the USDA and encourage a lifetime of healthy eating.

- ACTION*SMS>One vending machine that contains water is available for staff/students in the cafeteria.
- ACTION*SMS>Food Service Director, Level 1 certified, follows all guidelines developed Federally and at the State level
- ACTION*SMS>Implementation of Healthy Hunger Free Kid’s Act of 2010

*SAU 16 schools will continue to move forward in providing an environment and programs where students and staff can learn to care for each other and to appreciate individual differences. The entire school community will treat each other with respect and bullying and other degrading behaviors will not be tolerated.

- ACTION*SMS>Has adopted and implemented the Responsive Classroom Philosophy and the Seven Tenets for learning
- ACTION*SMS>Implemented a school-based culture program based upon the philosophy of Stan Davis with the Success-Opportunity-Attitude-Respect-Self Control (S.O.A.R.S.) acronym.

- ACTION*SMS>Identifies and celebrates through the Honesty, Energy, Attitude, Respect, Teamwork (H.E.A.R.T.) Principles and FAB 5 student success daily
- ACTION*SMS>Implementation of a Social Thinking Curriculum (Garcia-Winners) is being utilized with problem solving skills and conflict resolution
- ACTION*SMS>Acknowledge students at monthly school board meetings for individuals that show success in and out of the classroom as part of the 'Spotlight Student' section of the program
- ACTION*SMS>Continue to investigate and explore the Open Circle concept for all students
- ACTION*SMS>As part of the monthly school-wide meetings, students are able to showcase skills and abilities relative to the monthly themes.

*SAU 16 shall continue to provide a breadth of offerings in the arts to address the whole student and their interests and talents. This shall include the opportunity for a minimum of weekly participation in music, art or drama from grades K-12.

- ACTION*SMS>All students have art and music weekly; gym occurs twice every six days
- ACTION*SMS>Band and chorus are offered for those interested intermediate aged students throughout the school year.
- ACTION*SMS>Each Spring a Variety Show is offered over a two-night period for students to showcase their skills, abilities and hidden talents
- ACTION*SMS>After school enrichment occurs for six week sessions throughout the year. Programs include many fine art opportunities: dance, drama, watercolor, knitting, sewing, claymaking, pottery, Builder's club, mountain biking, snowshoeing, trail running, geocaching, etc...

*Regular physical activity will be required of all students with an increased breadth of choices – team sports, club sports, individual sports, and life sports. The staff will be encouraged to model good exercise habits by participating when and where possible with the students.

- ACTION*SMS>All students have Physical Education twice every six days for forty-five minutes based upon our 6-day schedule.
- ACTION*SMS>All classes receive a twenty-five minute recess time before/after lunch; primary classes also receive an additional twenty minute break daily
- ACTION*SMS>After school enrichment and clubs provide opportunities for exercise each 6 week session. Activities include mountain biking, trail running, floor hockey, geocaching, occupational therapy (Adventures in Motion), Cross-country, Girls on the Run, co-operative games, marathon club, Field Day, and JumpRope for Heart

Communications:

Goal: To review the current communications system in the SAU school community, assess their effectiveness, and make recommendations for improvement in each of the following areas: School to Community; SAU to Community; School to School; SAU to School

*Ensure timely communication between schools and parents/community members.

*Establish a policy of keeping school Internet communication up-to-date.

- ACTION*SMS>Upkeep of SMS web page occurs as needed by school Webmaster/Administration
- ACTION*SMS>PTO info, Principally Speaking Monthly newsletters, school events, lunch menus, school-based forms, photos and activities are included

- ACTION*SMS>Active links from curriculum areas including: Physical Education, Music, Technology, Art and Library
- ACTION*SMS>Principal has created a blog 'Stories from Stratham'
- ACTION*SMS>Staff have blogs that contain a variety of classroom based and schoolwide functions
- ACTION*SMS>School faculty utilize e-mail to communicate staff-staff, staff-SAU, and staa-community

*Establish a specific schedule for teachers to update their grades regularly on Powerschool.

- ACTION*SMS>Grades are not available to our SMS parents via this method. Traditional paper copied progress reports are sent quarterly

*Establish an expectation that all school personnel will return e-mail and/or telephone messages from parents in a timely fashion.

- ACTION*SMS>When applicable, staff are encouraged to respond within a 24 hour period as outlined in the staff handbook
- *Ensure great care to the quality and accuracy of all electronic communications.
- ACTION*SMS>High vigilance to the various policies and requirements remain at the forefront of protocols with confidentiality
- ACTION*SMS>Administration keeps staff informed of best practices

*Improve communication regarding student expectations and progress.

*Ensure regular communication from each elementary school, and its teachers, to the parents.

- ACTION*SMS>Daily/weekly updating the outdoor message board with important schoolwide events.
- ACTION*SMS>Teachers send weekly newsletters via class websites/blogs or hard copies about curriculum and class activities
- ACTION*SMS>Parent conferences are scheduled during the first/third quarter marking term; parents/staff are encouraged for personal conferencing when necessary
- ACTION*SMS>Back to school 'Open House' and Curriculum Nights are regularly scheduled functions
- ACTION*SMS>Continued utilization of the Alert Solutions messaging system for important functions and school emergencies.

*Review the procedures for parent-teacher conferences in all SAU 16 schools.

- ACTION*SMS>Review protocols at the last Staff meeting in October.
- ACTION*SMS>Provide resources for all staff regarding conferences through the Reflection About Week # (RAW 1)in notes
- ACTION*SMS>Utilize the conference note format for all interactions with parents/guardians
- ACTION*SMS>Readily provide to the front office a completed weekly schedule by all staff for conferencing opportunities/meeting times
- ACTION*SMS>Post in classrooms and on web site; hand to parents a copy of an ungraded Progress Report for informational purposes

*Review the skills and knowledge being measured on report cards in all SAU 16 elementary schools.

- ACTION*SMS>Quarterly data meetings held with each grade level and Reading Specialist/Curriculum Co-ordinator

- ACTION*SMS>Progress Report Committee has representation from each grade level and with the unified arts; meets when needed
- ACTION*SMS>Dialog at Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and at bi-weekly staff meetings about topics relative to data

*Improve communications involving administrators, paraprofessionals, and staff.

*Provide additional time/opportunity for faculty to meet with one another on professional matter, both formally and informally.

- ACTION*SMS>Bi-weekly professional staff meetings; each quarter one full staff meeting, PLCs meet once every six days for seventy-five minutes; para meetings held the first Thursday of each month
- ACTION*SMS>Early release opportunities for schoolwide professional development (Emergency protocols, playground supervision, first aid, reading/writer's workshop, student behavior, etc...)
- ACTION*SMS>Stratham Active Leadership Team (SALT) meets regularly before/after school with membership from faculty and community
- ACTION*SMS>Quarterly data/common core for each grade level has been provided; funded through Title IIa funds

*Administrators need to seek additional methods for enhancing communication with their staffs.

- ACTION*SMS>Weekly Reflection About Week (RAW) about upcoming/current information; monthly calendar of school-based events; scribed white board outside of principal's office; use of Google docs and meeting notes on web; Study books/book groups when interest occurs

- ACTION*SMS>Administration maintains an 'open door' philosophy; also highly visible throughout the course of the day

*Improve lines of communication with paraprofessionals to include information relative to the students with whom they work.

- ACTION*SMS>Meet with administration at least once monthly
- ACTION*SMS>Meet with large group once per quarter
- ACTION*SMS>Study group/book group utilized for professional development
- ACTION*SMS>Early release training with Reading Specialist/ Curriculum co-ordinator/Administration 4x year; 2 days of full day staff development
- ACTION*SMS>Consult method for paraprofessionals (Special Education/504/RTI/ELL on weekly basis

*SAU Administrators need to work with all nonteaching personnel to pinpoint communication concerns and then work in unison to address the problems

- ACTION*SMS>All staff receive RAW, Monthly calendar, Principally Speaking newsletter, AM/PM notice published via the office daily, Common Concerns Committee membership, Administration conducts an 'Open Door' philosophy

Community Involvement:

Goal: The entire SAU 16, from students to administrators, will recognize and support the value of community service and look for ways to strengthen community involvement in our schools. This is the first step to encourage growth in the connectedness of all the SAU communities.

*Publicize student volunteer opportunities.

- ACTION*SMS>Through PTO, the school will involve members of the school community for varied aspects of daily school life
- ACTION*SMS>Independent classroom staff may seek support as part of their programming (reading, writing, math, center-based activities)
- ACTION*SMS>Community membership is sought for various school events/functions: Variety Show, Wellness Walk, Pancake Breakfast, Movie Nights, Book Fair, etc...
- ACTION*SMS>On-going participation through the NHPIE program with school activities: Mystery/Guest Readers, Math Centers, Thematic Days (Wax Museum, Bat/Sunflower Day, Ellis Island Simulation, Building Bridges, Field Trips)

*Build a master list of community volunteers.

- ACTION*SMS>Maintain an active list of current volunteers.
- ACTION*SMS>Keep an accurate sign-in log regarding volunteers noting purpose and time

*Encourage students to be active, caring members of the community.

- ACTION*SMS>Continue the SOARS program with community service including: Wellness Walk, Reading Buddies, Grade level Musicals, Team Building Days, Dot Day, School-wide Morning Meetings, Grade Level Activity Periods
- ACTION*SMS>Continue to recognize students through the HEART Program, FAB 5, and the Spotlight Students

*Provide opportunities for community service.

- ACTION*SMS>Highly engaged with multiple agencies and programs:

End 68 Hours of Hunger, Stratham SPCA, New Generations, Pease Greeters, Exeter Childrens' Chamber Fund, St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, Canstruction, JumpRope for Heart, NH Food Bank, Goodies/Cards for

Soldiers, Recycling, Books for Berlin, St. Jude's, Stratham Historical Society, Seacoast Hospice, NH Heart Association, Third World Needs, etc...

Curriculum and Assessment:

Goal: The six communities of SAU 16 foster a tradition of excellence in our public schools. In reaching consensus in many critical areas, we continue to discuss the scores of questions that address our weaknesses and strengths upon which to build.

*Improve the clarity and consistency of K-12 curricula.

*Establish a simplified one-page core curriculum for each class, with progressively increasing levels of depth and complexity through each grade level

- ACTION*SMS>Professional staff are participants with the SAU curriculum committees; locally, reading trajectories have been established along with associated reading benchmarks
- ACTION*SMS>Through the use of our PLC model, the teams are working horizontally and vertically in the curriculum areas of math and language arts through the common core
- ACTION*SMS>Hiring a 60% Curriculum co-ordinator will provide direction and focus for math and the 'Next Generation' science standards

*Enhance standard curricula by implementing consistent procedures and programs for remediation and extension in all SAU 16 schools

- ACTION*SMS>Through data meetings, Reading Specialist and administration will review criteria for RTI/enrichment opportunities
- ACTION*SMS>Reading Specialist, Administration and Curriculum co-ordinator conduct regular reviews of data to identify at risk learners

- ACTION*SMS>Implement the Student Support Services intervention program on a weekly basis
- ACTION*SMS>Professional staff continue to strive to meet the needs of all learners at Tier I and II interventions through differentiated instruction with the workshop model of instruction
- ACTION*SMS>Continued and on-going data collection by all staff to support learners

*Facilitate teacher development, coordination, and review of curricular changes to achieve consistent and cohesive educational program.

*Create more time for common planning, curriculum development, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

- ACTION*SMS>Development and implementation of a 6 day schedule provides 75 minutes of PLC time for all professional staff
- ACTION*SMS>Development and implementation of a 6 day schedule provides more common planning time for each grade level/unified arts
- ACTION*SMS>Staff meetings have been established to promote vertical teams for conversation, planning and professional development

*Enhance professional development by improving on-site training opportunities and implementing a consistent teacher mentor program in all SAU 16 schools.

- ACTION*SMS>Reading Specialist meets with grade level teams once per quarter to review data
- ACTION*SMS>Curriculum Co-ordinator is meeting with grade level teams once per quarter to align math curriculum
- ACTION*SMS>Has a minimum of 2 mentor/mentee opportunities per school year; program is outlined in the

bargaining agreement with the Teachers' Association and SMS
School Board

*Increase rigor throughout the curriculum and clarify, as well as promote, all possible learning opportunities.

*Address specific needs identified within each subject area.

- ACTION*SMS>Shall continue to refine their knowledge of balanced literacy: Reader's Workshop, Writer's Workshop, Word Study, Words Their Way, Interactive Read Aloud); facilitation of Math; and review of the Next Generation Science Standards
- ACTION*SMS>Implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) as it relates to our current programming
- ACTION*SMS>Review data as collected by administration through the walk-through tool devised for differentiated instruction in all classrooms

*Increase administrative support for teachers in their pursuit of higher standards.

- ACTION*SMS>Administration to encourage continued growth with professional practice
- ACTION*SMS>Budgeted funds to support initiatives for all staff, which includes technology
- ACTION*SMS>Varied Professional Development on and off site

*Improve communication about extended learning opportunities

- ACTION*SMS>Forward opportunities for extended opportunities from the SAU through communication methods
- ACTION*SMS>Promote learning activities on site through staff, web site and messaging system

*Enhance standard curricula by implementing consistent procedures and programs for remediation and extension in all SAU 16 schools.

- ACTION*SMS>Maintaining membership on all SAU curriculum committees
- ACTION*SMS>Continued dialog at administrative team meetings and elementary principal meetings
- ACTION*SMS>Curriculum co-ordinator to meet monthly with other SAU personnel regarding programs and current procedures

*Improve the statistical validity and consistency of K-12 assessments.

*Evaluate student learning with teacher-developed annual exit assessments that are aligned to the curriculum.

- ACTION*SMS>Math members from SMS participated in creating quarterly assessments
- ACTION*SMS>Use of Fountas and Pinnell for literacy along with AIMS Web for student growth

*Create a committee to study our standardized assessment program to make it more statistically relevant and useful.

- ACTION*SMS>At this point in time, SMS does not utilize a standard assessment; other means for data include DIBELS, NECAP, AIMS Web, Light's Retention Scale

*Improve communication among schools and parents by creating a system to capture and store assessment data on student skill levels that identifies those who have mastered the material and those that remain deficient.

- ACTION*SMS>Use of Performance Pathways by all school staff
- ACTION*SMS>PLC teams, horizontal and vertical, will address best practices
- ACTION*SMS>Reading Specialist and Technology co-ordinator have created and are revising program to support SMS students

