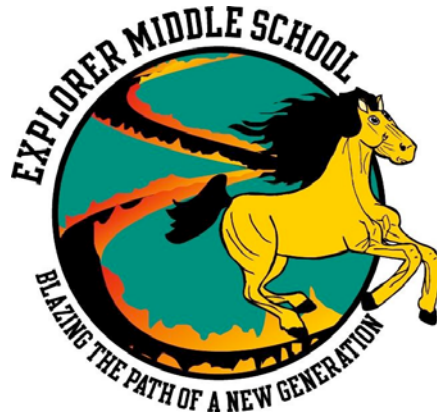


Paradise Valley Unified School District



EXPLORER MIDDLE SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY

LONG RANGE PLAN

2009 - 2013

VALUES

We, the Explorer Middle School Community, value:

- ...the shared responsibility for student learning among, parents, staff and students.
- ...an open and positive approach to communication
- ...respectful behavior toward all people.
- ...diversity and individual differences.
- ...the potential of all students.
- ...a safe learning environment.
- ...the promotion of a healthy lifestyle
- ...personal integrity.

VISION

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The vision of Explorer Middle School is to become a great, adolescent-centered learning community, where students are expected to meet high academic standards, contribute as positive citizens in our community, and become productive members of the 21st century. We are committed to providing innovative and challenging experiences through our curriculum, instruction, and assessment that are aligned with state standards. We are dedicated to providing support and time for students to meet rigorous standards. We are committed to providing our students frequent exposure to the visual and performing arts, physical fitness, foreign language and technology.

DEVELOPMENTAL RESPONSIVENESS

We are committed to creating small learning communities of students and adults that support each student's intellectual, ethical, social, and physical development. All members of our school community are expected to demonstrate respect for each other. Student work is showcased on the campus and classrooms provide a stimulating and inviting atmosphere for students to learn.

SOCIAL EQUITY

All members of our school community have equal access to valued knowledge. This community expects high quality work from all students and helps each student produce it. This commitment includes tutoring, mentoring, special adaptations, and other supports.

DECISION-MAKING

Analysis and use of data and research form a basis for decision-making. Resources include national, state, local, and school community.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Explorer Middle School community is committed to providing each student with opportunities to achieve academic excellence and personal success in a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment.

EXPLORER MIDDLE SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY LONG RANGE PLAN

Goals and Objectives

GOAL I. To provide a 21st century curriculum that is relevant, challenging, integrative and exploratory to all students.

- a. Expand content, exploratory and elective course offerings.
- b. Research, create, and implement programs that support each student's intellectual, emotional, ethical, social, and physical development.
- c. Expect and support the optimal use of current technology in teaching and learning.

GOAL II. To create organizational structures that support collaborative relationships that focus on teaching and learning.

- a. Increase collaboration between all stakeholders.
- b. Research and offer programs that provide every student the opportunity to have an advocate on campus.

GOAL III. To promote school initiated family and community partnerships.

- a. Increase and enhance school communication to parents and community.
- b. Initiate and form community and business partnerships that provide resources and support educational needs.

GOAL IV. To implement assessment and evaluation tools that help students discover and understand their academic and personal strengths.

- a. Research and offer professional development on best practices for assessing student learning.
- b. Provide opportunities for students to be responsible for their own learning and growth.

GOAL V. To develop educators who value working with adolescents and are prepared to do so.

- a. Collect research and provide staff with information, support, and training on adolescent development
- b. Expect educators to showcase and highlight our students' talents, abilities, and gifts.

Goal I. To provide a 21st Century curriculum that is relevant, challenging, integrative and exploratory to all students.

a. Expand content, exploratory, and elective course offerings.

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS:

- Increase in the percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards on AIMS and TerraNova
- Increase of students registered in the classes
- Increase in student enrollment through the attractiveness of elective offerings
- Increase in new teachers joining Explorer due to the utilization of technology and creative course offerings
- Implementation of Explorer benchmark programs at other district schools
- Increase in the utilization of technology for teaching and learning

STRATEGIES	TIMELINE For implementation
Students will take Pre-Algebra as the entry level math course for all 7 th graders.	2009-2010
Students will take Algebra as the entry level course for all 8 th graders	2010-2011
The principal will offer the first middle school Paxton Lab for Family and Consumer Science (FACS) as an exploratory & elective course.	2009-2010
The principal will offer a musical keyboarding elective course that integrates performing arts with technology.	2010-2011
The principal will offer one or more of the following exploratory and elective courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an entrepreneurial course. • a journalism/literary/media course. • a student leadership course. • a Lean Six-Sigma “like” course. • a course that explores industry, technology, communications, and construction. • an investment and personal finance elective course. • a course that fosters and promotes creativity and inventive ideas. 	2010-2013

Goal I. To provide a 21st Century curriculum that is relevant, challenging, integrative and exploratory to all students.

b. Research, create, and implement programs that support each student’s intellectual, emotional, ethical, social, and physical development.

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS:

- Increase in the utilization of technology in teaching and learning
- Increase in student attendance
- Increase in student engagement in relevant learning

STRATEGIES	TIMELINE For implementation
Teachers will incorporate interest-based independent learning projects in their curriculum.	2010-2013
Teachers will incorporate global networking partnerships that promote cultural awareness.	2010-2013
Teachers will actively engage students in Project Based Learning.	2009-2011
Counselors and the FACS teacher will research and create programs that address “character” education, etiquette, manners, social behavior, and global work ethic.	2009-2013
Math, science and technology teachers will research Project Based Learning programs that integrate science, technology, engineering, and math. (STEM)	2010-2011
Teacher will develop lesson plans that stimulate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creativity and innovation • Communication and collaboration • Research and information fluency • Critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making • Digital citizenship • Technology operations and concepts 	2009-2013
Teachers will create and organize student clubs, organizations, and programs, based on student interest.	2009-2013
Students will invite staff members to school and community events.	2009-2013

Goal I. To provide a 21st Century curriculum that is relevant, challenging, integrative and exploratory to all students.

c. Expect and support the optimal use of current technology in teaching and learning.

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS:

- Increase in the percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards on AIMS and TerraNova
- Increase in the usage of technology based programs
- Increased usage of the Media Space
- Increase in staff and student technology skills

STRATEGIES	TIMELINE For implementation
Teachers will increase student usage of research based student achievement programs that significantly impact learning. (Study Island, TeenBiz 3000, Accelerated Reader, BrainPop, Gizmos, and NutShell Math Plus)	2009-2013
Principal will provide training for consistent implementation of Study Island, TeenBiz 3000, Accelerated Reader, and NutShell Math.	2009-2013
Teachers will research and propose current technology based student achievement programs for possible implementation.	2009-2013
Principal, Technology Integration Specialist, and Technology Committee will transform the traditional library into a 21 st Century "Media Space."	2009-2013
Technology Integration Specialist will partner and support teachers and students in the innovative use of technology for teaching and learning.	2009-2013

Goal II. To create organizational structures that support collaborative relationships that focus on teaching and learning.

a. Increase collaboration between all stakeholders.

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS:

- Increase in attendance at staff meetings
- Increase collaboration and positive communication between staff
- Increase in attendance at staff functions

STRATEGIES	TIMELINE For implementation
Department Chairs will help facilitate collaboration and communication with elective and interdisciplinary teams by scheduling monthly department visits to showcase and share ideas.	2009-2013
Campus Climate and Teacher Support Committees will build and strengthen relationships among staff members.	2009-2013
Principal will promote attendance of all certified and classified at all staff meetings to increase understanding and support the school's Mission and Vision.	2009-2013

Goal II. To create organizational structures that support collaborative relationships that focus on teaching and learning.

b. Research and offer programs that provide every student the opportunity to have an advocate on campus.

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS:

- A student advocacy program is developed
- Every student has a known advocate

STRATEGIES	TIMELINE For implementation
<p>School Council members will research and report findings on student advocacy programs.</p> <p>An advocacy committee will review findings and develop an action plan for implementation.</p>	<p>2009-2013</p> <p>2009-2013</p>

Goal III. To promote school initiated family and community partnerships.

a. Increase and enhance school communication to parents and community.

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS:

- Increase in the participation of Dads in school activities
- Increase in website usage
- Increase in the number of e-mail addresses
- Increase in the overall participation in school activities

STRATEGIES	TIMELINE For implementation
<p>A communication committee will review the current communication plan and develop and produce an informative media package for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Families • Incoming Families • Current Families <p>Including but not limited to information on Special Education services, school programs, and afterschool sports/clubs</p>	2009-2013
<p>PTO will create an Outreach Program for new families</p>	2009-2010
<p>Counselors and PTO will investigate and implement a program that encourages “Dads” to get involved in our school, e.g. Dads and Donuts Day!</p>	2009-2010

Goal III. To promote school initiated family and community partnerships.

b. Initiate and form community and business partnerships that provide resources and support educational needs.

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS:

- Increase in the application of grants
- Increase in community and business partnerships

STRATEGIES	TIMELINE For implementation
School Council will invite local businesses and community organizations to our school to showcase our programs and form partnerships.	2009-2013
Technology Integration Specialist will provide grant writing training to support school programs such as field trips, teacher projects, guest speakers, and student support programs.	2009-2013

Goal IV. To implement assessment and evaluation tools that help students discover and understand their academic and personal strengths.

a. Research and offer professional development on best practices for assessing student learning.

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS:

- Increase in variety of assessment strategies to measure student learning
- Increase in frequency of assessments to plan or drive instruction
- Increase in student engagement and achievement
- Increase in teacher collaboration and support

STRATEGIES	TIMELINE For implementation
Teachers will design and form professional learning communities which focus on student assessment.	2010-2011
Teachers will network with other schools, teachers, associations, and specialists in the area of assessment.	2010-2011
Teachers will utilize performance data to plan instruction.	2009-2010
Teachers will share Best Practices on a regular basis.	2012-2013

Goal IV. To implement assessment and evaluation tools that help students discover and understand their academic and personal strengths.

b. Provide opportunities for students to be responsible for their own learning and growth.

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS:

- Increase in student self awareness and confidence
- Increase in student established goals, plan of action, and evaluation
- Increase in the utilization of student inventory instruments.
- Increase student awareness of career options for their future.

STRATEGIES	TIMELINE For implementation
A committee of parents, students, and teachers will collaboratively design a variety of tools which measure and identify student career and vocational traits, learning styles, intelligences, achievement, strengths, gifts and talents.	2011-2012
Teams will plan time within the school year that allows students the opportunity to regularly evaluate and develop personal goals for their learning.	2011-2012
Students will set goals based on inventory and achievement results.	2012-2013
Teams and counselors will monitor, provide guidance, and celebrate student efforts and accomplishments.	2012-2013

Goal V. To develop educators who value working with adolescents and are prepared to do so.

a. Collect research and provide staff with information, support, and training on adolescent development

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS:

- **Reduction in teacher/student conflict and incidents of bullying**
- **Increase in awareness and understanding of adolescent development**
- **Increase in instructional strategies utilized to meet the needs of all students**
- **Increase in overall student achievement**

STRATEGIES	TIMELINE For implementation
Principal will organize a committee representing students, teachers, parents, and support staff to generate a system to disseminate research-based strategies and information related to adolescent development.	2009-2010
Teachers will participate in new and ongoing training for the successful implementation of the Olweus anti-bullying prevention program and the Make Your Day citizenship program.	2009-2010
Principal will schedule opportunities for 7 th and 8 th grade teachers to understand research based developmental and instructional differences between their students resulting in improved lesson design and delivery. Teacher lesson plans will reflect varying instructional strategies meeting the needs of all students.	2009-2013

Goal V. To develop educators who value working with adolescents and are prepared to do so.

b. Expect educators to showcase and highlight our students' talents, abilities, and gifts.

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS:

- Increase in the variety of student accomplishments recognized
- Increase in the number of students recognized on campus

STRATEGIES	TIMELINE For implementation
Assistant Principal will organize a student recognition committee representing students, teachers, parents, and support staff.	2009-2010
Entire staff will showcase or display student talents and accomplishments through the newsletter, video broadcast, P.A., office display cases, marquee, website (individual and/or school), bulletin boards, etc.	2009-2010