

Midland School Matters

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 2010

REDEFINING OUR MISSION



The 2010–2011 school year is off to a great start. The theme for the district is “Redefining Our Mission.” The community, administration, faculty and staff will participate in collaborative conversation to develop a comprehensive Mission and Vi-

sion statement that will drive decisions regarding the district.

In order to facilitate the implementation of a successful Mission statement, the teaching faculty will engage in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs).

Education must align structures and cultures of their institutions to support a mission and fulfill a new purpose-high levels of learning for all students (DuFour, 2008).

Professional Learning Communities gives teaching faculty the opportunity to examine all relevant data to a child’s success. Teachers will look at classroom assessments, state assessment data, attendance rates, etc. Using that data, administration and faculty can develop strategic plans to address any deficiency that exists.

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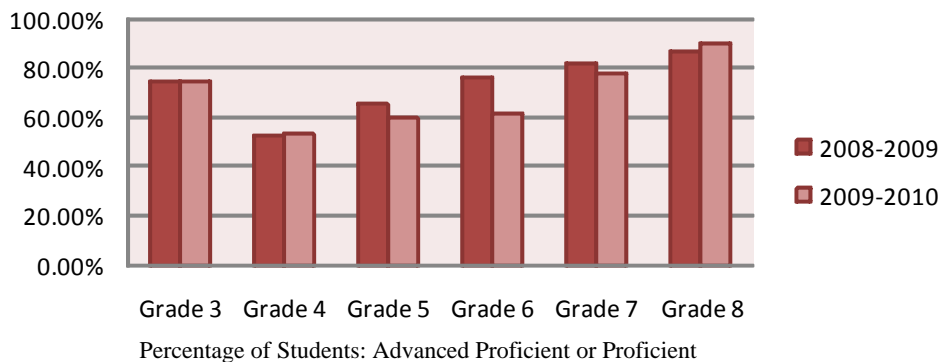
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OCTOBER 2010 NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

- *Redefining Our Mission*
- *Two year Comparison of NJASK Literacy, Math and Science Results for all students*
- *PTA Calendar of Upcoming Events*

Language Arts Literacy Two Year Comparison



Master Schedule Changes for the 2010-2011 School Year

There were a number of changes to the Master Schedule at Midland School #1 for the 2010-2011 school year. The most significant change was to block schedule both Language Arts and mathematics classes. In language arts, students will have the

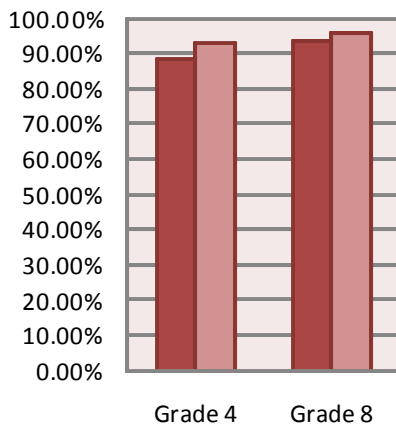
same teacher addressing all skills relevant to language arts literacy. Students in mathematics will receive 80 minutes of instruction on a daily basis. In addition, basic skills and ESL services will be integrated into the classroom instruction at least

50% of the time. It is our intention to direct our efforts to attaining the NCLB definition of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as determined by the NJASK results.



Midland School # 1 Offers NJASK Preparation Program

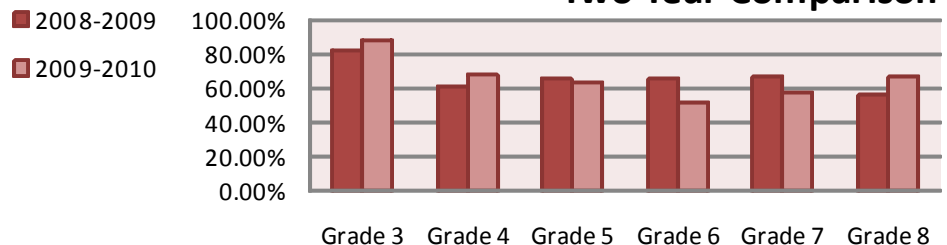
Science Two Year Comparison



Midland School is offering courses in NJASK Preparation after school. Taught by Midland School Teaching Faculty, these courses, offered to students in grades 2-8, will assist those students who have struggled previously on state assessments. This instruction began during

the week of October 18th and will continue through until the end of April, just prior to the administration of the NJASK during the first two weeks of May.

Mathematics Two Year Comparison



Percentage of Students: Advanced Proficient or Proficient

Superintendent Delivers Testing Report and 2010-2011 Goals

At the meeting of the Board of Education on October 12, 2010, the Superintendent of Schools delivered three reports to the public. One was the required Violence and Vandalism report from the 2009-2010 school year. The other two were the District Testing Report and the Board/District/School goals for the

2010-2011 school year. The power point presentations are on the district's website under *school info*. Feel free to examine these reports at your leisure. In addition, contained in this newsletter, there are three charts which describe a two year comparison in Language Arts Literacy, mathematics and science.



Fire Marshall Visits Midland School to Discuss 911

The Midland School 8th Grade had a special class in remembrance of September 11, 2001. Rich Cravello, Fire Marshall for the Port Authority of NY and NJ took the students through the events leading up to the attack on the World Trade Center towers and the events that followed. Addressing Mr. Grossman's social studies classes, Fire Marshall Cravello described how the twin towers were constructed and how the terrorist attack resulted in their eminent destruction.

Combining pictures with his first-hand knowledge, Fire Marshall Cravello helped the 8th graders understand the events of that day 9 years ago. Mr. Cravello noted that these students were still in pre-school when the attack took place. Mr.

Grossman added, "September 11, 2001 is a major historical event and Fire Marshall Crav-



ello's account was a great opportunity for these students to learn about living history."

District Establishes an Independent Enterprise

Planning began late in the 2009-2010 school year to institute an independent enterprise supported by the school district. Three programs were initiated for the 2010-2011 school year as a result of the independent enterprise. The first is a preschool program for a variety of age levels beginning at age 2 1/2. There are currently 21 children enrolled ages 3 and 4. The pro-

gram for 4 year olds runs five days per week.

The second program is Kindergarten enrichment. Students enrolled in half day kindergarten can stay for the full day and re-

ceive support from our staff in achieving our Kindergarten curriculum. Lastly, we instituted a latchkey program for children after school. The program has release times at 4:30pm and 6:00pm. Any revenue generated will be used to enhance these programs and further extend their impact on the district as a whole. Registration for the 2011-2012 school year will begin in January.

"Working together we can support learning and ensure your child's success in school."

Senator Makes Visit: Gives Students a Lesson in Lawmaking



On October 13, 2010, State Senator Loretta Weinberg was a guest speaker at Midland School #1. She met with students in grade 4. She engaged students in a healthy conversation about the state legislature and how laws are created and then enacted. She allowed students to

step into the role of state senator. They discussed creating a bill in committee. Students then opened discussion to the entire congregation acting as the senate. Senator Weinberg is returning on October 26, 2010 to speak with the 8th grade.



The school year has gotten off to a good start. The fall allergies seem to be exceptionally bad this year. Please remember to give allergy medi-

cations consistently and if possible before coming to school. Midland School's intramural sports will begin soon, (Volleyball for 6th-8th grades in October and Indoor Soccer and Gymnastics for 4th-8th grades in December). If your child is in-

Nurse's Corner

terested in participating, they will need to have an updated physical and parent permission. Please check my website for information on the intramural sports program. Contact your doctor to make an appointment for a physical if needed.

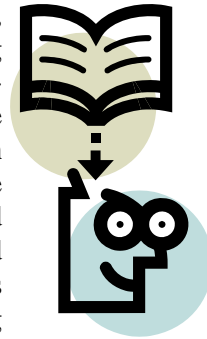
BSIP Program: Reader's Theater

In June, in culmination of a specific fluency unit called *Reader's Theater*, Mrs. Oliver's second and third grade basic skills students enthusiastically performed for our first grade classes. The students in the spotlight proudly showcased their fluency talent, as well as the effectiveness of re-reading methods, as they read humorous poems by well known children's authors, Shel Silverstein and Jack Prelutsky. After several weeks of re-reading practice, the second and third graders were able to present the poems with

smoothness and a lot of expression. To add more appeal and to capture the attention of the audience, they also incorporated costumes, props, and dramatic movement. The audience, in addition to listening intently to the plight of the characters portrayed in the poems, interacted through questioning, predicting, and identifying. In the midst of creativity, laughter, and mutual engagement, students supported one another's literacy growth in such areas as fluency development, vocabulary enrichment, listening comprehension, confi-

dence building, and reading encouragement.

The presentation closed with ice pop treats and the second and third graders distributing and assisting the first graders with a matching activity, consisting of poetry titles and illustrations. It was a fun time for all, as well as a rich and cooperative literacy, learning experience.



Midland School #1 Student to Sing in All County Middle School Choir



On October 13, 2010, four students from the Midland School Talented and Gifted Vocal Ensemble auditioned for the Bergen County Middle School Chorus at the Allendale Middle School. The All County Honor Chorus is sponsored by the Music Educators of Bergen County every year. Students in grades 7 and 8 who participate in their school's choral music program and are endorsed by their music

teacher and school administrator are eligible to try out. Each singer is graded on voice quality, vocal range, intonation and tonal memory as they audition before a panel of the county's vocal music teachers. Several hundred students from all over the county auditioned this year but only 125 were chosen. We are pleased to announce that Taylor Tessitore, an eighth grader from Midland School, was chosen to sing alto

in the All County Middle School Chorus this year. Taylor will be required to learn most of the music on her own with the help of vocal music teacher Mrs. Weiner. The students are required to attend four rehearsals with the other chorus members before the concert on November 20, 2010 at Cresskill High School.

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Patricia Dee Bilka

Vice President
Barbara Ann Gleeson Maurer

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Sam Allos
Teresa Cravello
Jay Esposito
Mark Scully
Robert Verhasselt

School Administration
Fredrik Oberkehr, Ed.D.
Superintendent
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*Board Secretary/
Business Administrator*
Cara Hurd
Principal



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Message From the Board President

The Board of Education is very proud to have achieved our goal – despite drastic budget cuts – of maintaining all programs and extracurricular activities for our students.

We thank Dr. Oberkehr who provided the guidance and information necessary to make the tough budget decisions that were necessary this year. He was also instrumental in recognizing a qualified candidate for principal – a veteran and well-respected teacher – Mrs. Hurd. Together they have worked to transform the master schedule and, in

response to community needs, created the pre-kindergarten, kindergarten enrichment and latchkey programs. The Board looks forward to continued progress and student achievement under their guidance and direction.

Looking at the many challenges facing our district, “Redefining the Mission” is certainly an appropriate goal. The Board is committed to providing the best educational experience for our students and will dedicate the time, energy and resources necessary to accomplish it. We look for-

ward to your support.

As we move forward in developing our budget for 2011-12, our discussions should recognize and acknowledge the importance of the partnership of administration, parents, teachers, staff and community. We are united in our common goal to provide our children with the foundation necessary to enable them to be successful, contributing members of the community. We are all on the same team – Together Everyone Achieves More!

Patricia Dee Bilka,
Board President

Midland School Student Tutors



Student Tutors is a group designed for students in 6-8th grade to help students in grades 2-4 with their homework. In addition to homework, there is an opportunity for tutors to help students reinforce skills by playing educational games and/or doing flashcard drills with them. Students in

grades 2-4 are matched with their tutors. Teachers can recommend students to the club and make the club aware of any skills that need to be remediated. Student Tutors meets once a week under the direction of Miss Johnson and Miss Loverich.

A Message from PTA President

The Midland School #1 PTA is a parent and teacher association which provides the children with various programs throughout the school year. Children are treated to a wide variety of programs from cultural art programs to health and safety shows. The children can also participate in sponsored events from Skate Night, or our Trunk or Treat on October 23, to a talent show in February, movie nights and dances. The children are able to receive these services because you joined the PTA and you support the various fundraising events held throughout the year. Please join us and help us in our efforts. Our next General Meeting is November 11, 2010 at 7:30PM in the Multi-Purpose room.

All are welcome. We look forward to meeting you. Have a wonderful and prosperous year!

Francine Pascarella. President Midland School #1 PTA

