

MENANDS SCHOOL DISTRICT- FOCUSES FOR THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR

Focuses/Commitments	Major Goals for the Menands School District for 2011-2012
<p>The Board and the administration are committed to providing students with a high quality instructional program that is aligned with state and national standards, 21st century skills, and high school expectations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin the transition to the Common Core Learning Standards in K-8 English language arts, reading, and math- standards, instructional approaches, materials, and curriculum mapping • Implement interim assessments aligned with the New York State assessments • Continue to increase our use of State assessment data, Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark data, and NWEA/MAP assessment data to inform instruction • Using new cut points established in July 2010, improve grades 3-8 overall performance on the NYS English language arts and math assessments • Continue to increase student and teacher use of technology across the curriculum • Update acceptable use policies and procedures for the security of district computer hardware and software • Finalize the district plan for Response to Intervention and Academic Intervention Services given the transition to new interim assessments • Extend the program for high ability, high achieving students to grades 4-7 • Maintain the new district website and add an emergency notification system
<p>The Board and the administration are committed to student safety and wellness and the development of respectful and responsible behaviors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represent current programs and steps to prevent bullying and harassment in a formal bullying prevention policy that complies with the Dignity for All Students Act • Improve student attendance and students' on-time arrival at school
<p>The Board and the administration are committed to attracting, supporting, retaining, and maintaining high expectations for a highly qualified faculty and staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institute an Inquiry Team/Professional Development Steering Committee. Establish the district Professional Development Plan for 2011-2012 reflecting professional development on the Common Core Learning Standards, reading instruction, math instruction, using assessment data, technology integration, and curriculum mapping • Negotiate the terms of the teacher Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) • Continue to improve faculty/staff attendance
<p>The Board and the Superintendent are fiscally responsible and are committed to providing a high quality educational program at a reasonable cost to the taxpayers and in compliance with regulations of the State Education Department and the State Comptroller</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract with an outside evaluator to conduct an evaluation of all aspects of the cafeteria program • Investigate alternative options for employee health insurance • Prepare a school district budget for 2012-2013 that complies with the property tax threshold
<p>The Board and the administration are committed to maintaining safe, attractive building and grounds and preserving the physical plant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign the grades 3-8 playground and recreation area. Establish a budget, obtain proposals from playground companies, raise needed funds, demolish the wooden structure, and rebuild the grades 3-8 area • Replace the sidewalks along the parking lot and along the school driveway
<p>The Board and the administration are committed to constructive, professional relationships among the Board, the administration, and the faculty and staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate a successor contract with the Menands Association of Teachers • Implement an orientation program for the new member of the Board of Education