Action Plan for Learning



School Name: Minnekhada Middle

School Goal: Social Emotional Learning

School Year: 2020-2021

Goal / InquiryStudent learning

Students will develop resiliency, self-awareness, and self-regulation strategies in a connected and nurturing school community in order to enhance school achievement and overall well-being.

Rationale

1-3 reasons for choosing goal

Students in middle school are undergoing rapid changes and benefit from targeted support in order to foster resiliency, self-awareness, and self-regulation as a means of enhancing overall well-being. Research has shown that these focused supports are most impactful in an environment that is nurturing and where students feel connected to peers and staff. At Minnekhada, there is a focus on the whole child and on nurturing both the academic and the social and emotional competencies of our students.

Our rationale for selecting this year's goal includes the following:

- Experiences in the middle years, especially between the ages of 10 to 13, have critical and long-lasting effects. During this time, children are experiencing significant cognitive, social and emotional changes that establish their lifelong identity and set the stage for adolescence and adulthood. The overall health and well-being of children in their middle years impacts their ability to concentrate and learn, develop and maintain friendships and make thoughtful decisions (source MDI).
- 2. During the late middle childhood years children have an increased awareness of themselves and others. During middle childhood they are developing ideas about how they may or may not "fit in" to their social and academic environments (Rubin et al., 2006). These ideas have the power to either promote health and academic achievement or lead to negative outcomes such as depression and anxiety in adulthood (Jacobs et al., 2008).
- **3.** There is mounting evidence to suggest that positive connections to adults and peers during the critical middle years act to increase a child's resiliency and school and life success.

References and sources to support actions



- BC's New Curriculum: Core Competencies guide
- Safe and Caring Learning Communities framework
- What Matters at Minnekhada (see visual above)
- www.casel.org
- Minnekhada MDI Data

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MDI-SchReport-2019 -20-SD43-Minnekhad

Planned Actions

Continuing practices working well (1-3)

- What will we do differently? (1-3)
- How will we provide for staff development and collaboration?
- How will we involve parents?
- How will we involve students?
- How will we monitor progress and adjust actions?

Moving forward, Minnekhada staff will:

- continue to develop as a district Learning Lab in the area of selfregulation by participating in district opportunities and collaboration with other school sites
- commit to school-wide professional development collaboration on school-based ProD Days and on scheduled Collaboration Days
- designate a Team Leader SEL & Self-Regulation Initiatives
- continue to support a Self-Regulation Learning Team
- designate a small group of Team Leaders to the School Goals team leader focus. This team would work with the Pro-D committee, and administrators, to support staff development and the ongoing implementation of this APL goal.
- continue to collaborate, as a staff, at our September Pro-D, where we
 will further refine What Matters at Minnekhada and will develop our
 action items for the year (see PowerPoint summary from 2019-2020).
- continue to provide opportunities through focused assemblies and speakers that foster learning and growth in our APL area.
- focus on cross-grade activities and school-wide connections-based activities that build community and connection.
- Continue to participate in the district wellness team initiative.

Involving students, Minnekhada staff will: focus on teaching self-assessment of Core Competencies continue with the practice of student-led assemblies that focus on individual school values and recognize student contributions and success participate in Leadership and classroom-based activities that promote connectedness and activate thinking and the language of self-regulation continue to increase student voice engage students in What Matters at Minnekhada and our work with Kat Thorsen. co-create learning spaces and tools to support self-regulation in classrooms and communal spaces Involving parents, Minnekhada staff will: continue communicating and providing parent education and information in weekly emails, focusing on structures, strategies and sharing of school goal incorporate a focus on personal awareness and social responsibility in our communication of student learning to parents gather feedback and provide opportunity for parent collaboration through formal and informal structures linked to our What Matters at Minnekhada. Work with our Family of Schools to bring in speakers for parents on topics related to our school goals. **Backup Documentation**

What matters At Minnekhada 2020-20

Learning 2021-2022

Documentation of learning Staff used a variety of informal assessment strategies such as circles, Key evidence of change morning meetings, daily check-ins, and mood meters to assess student How did your actions well-being and to maintain daily connections. make a difference? Students frequently participated in self-assessment of the core • Choose 1-3 pieces of competencies. This self-assessment and reflection were part of each evidence to demonstrate reporting period and was shared in other ways throughout the year. the impact your actions Attached is a PowerPoint with a collection of initiatives that took place this have had on student year to build community, connection and a positive school culture. learning to meet your goal. Documentation could include video, survey results, performance standard data, anecdotal evidence, work samples, etc. **Backup Documentation** Documentation of

School Community Engagement Process

- How did you engage parents, teachers, students & support staff in developing your APL?
- How did you share your APL goals with parents, teachers, students & support staff?

Engagement in our school goal is an ongoing component of the culture and climate of the school. The following is a sampling of structures in place to support ongoing learning and communication of our goal:

- staff meeting collaborative topical sessions
- district Self-Regulation Learning Lab participation
- Team Leader/teacher-leader facilitated in-service
- Ongoing sharing of structures and strategies
- Weekly email communication with parents
- Minnekhada 2020 visioning process: students, staff, parents (PAC)
- Student-led assemblies

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Reflection Highlights

- Where are we now?
- What are some patterns emerging?
- What surprised you?
- What conclusions / inferences might you draw?
- How does this inform potential next steps?

Over the course of this school year, we continued to work on supporting self-regulation and on building student resiliency. In classrooms, teachers employed a variety of initiatives to foster well-being including circles, morning check-ins, mood meters etc...

We also realized quite quickly that a predominant focus needed to be on building connections. At Minnekhada, building connections has been a consistent and ongoing goal. We know students are most successful when they feel connected. This year, the ability to develop those broader connections were far more challenging, as students were restricted to their small learning group and their classroom teacher.

To ensure that these important connections were maintained, we ensured that teachers on the same team maintained a common prep. This was instrumental in maintaining a team feel and in providing the opportunity for co-planning, common activities, and connections between teams. Teams were able to hold team assemblies and engage in activities together remotely.

We also tried to maintain as much normalcy for students as possible and sought to find creative ways to bring the school together in a safe way. For example, we adapted our yearly holiday trip to the movie theatre to an in-school holiday event. We continued to hold assemblies and brought in a guest speaker, which we viewed remotely. We also maintained spirit weeks and held the first ever Mustang Olympics, all of which created connection while adhering to COVID protocol. A weekly video podcast was also developed that shared and celebrated things happening in the school.

At our recent school-based Pro-d, staff went through a process to reflect on the strengths and stretches of this year and to determine a focus for the coming year. Through this process, staff determined that our school goal for this coming year should be around developing personal and social awareness. This included fostering self-awareness, self-advocacy, and self-regulation. Staff also strongly felt that after a year of COVID, focusing on understanding the foundations for healthy relationships and working on skills that contribute to healthy relationships were also important. In our opening week in September, the focus will be on who I am as an individual, as a member of a team, and as a member of a school community.

As a collective team, we feel positive about what was achieved this year during an unprecedented time, and we look forward to school year ahead.

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(Delete this section if Literacy is your main goal)

Literacy Data

Attach the following:

- Classroom Assessment
- School Assessment
- FSA results

Signatures

Cabaal Nama, Minnalshada Middla	School Goal: Social Emotional Learning	School Year:
School Name: Minnekhada Middle		2020-2021

Title	Name	Signature
Principal	Pamela Becker	P. arken
Assistant Superintendent	Gerald Shong	DSL