

# **WHITMORE LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS VISION 2013**

## **A plan for improving educational outcomes for all students**

### **UPDATED, JUNE 2010 YEAR 2 REPORT**

In the fall of 2007 the Whitmore Lake Board of Education met to begin the process of reviewing what was previously known as “Vision 2010” a strategic plan that consisted of several core target areas and examples of accomplishments in each of the target areas that had been achieved to date.

In the process of this review, it was determined that many of the target areas had changed, and while many goals had been accomplished, others were missing or needed fine tuning in order to better reflect the needs of the school district at this point in time. In addition, the vision and mission of the district were reviewed, with one addition of “in a global society” added to the vision, as our students will likely face a world that is dramatically different in their future than what many of us have known in the past.

Our guiding principles of integrity, respect, diversity, stewardship, citizenship, innovation and leadership remain the same. These are the principles that form the foundation of the school district.

“Vision 2010” has been updated to read “Vision 2013”, with the understanding that numerous changes in our world that can take place in a five-year span of time that would necessitate a review and update at that point, if not sooner.

## Mission/Vision

The mission of the district is “partnering with students, parents and the community to provide an exceptional, personalized education.

The vision of the district is “providing each individual the inspiration to dream and the skills to succeed in a global society.”

## Guiding Principles:

- Integrity
  - We believe in:
    - Honesty
    - Openness
    - Trustworthiness
    - Fairness
    - Responsibility and Accountability
    - Professionalism
  
- Respect
  - We believe in:
    - Treating each person with courtesy and civility
    - Listening to divergent views or opinions
    - Honoring the decision-making process
    - Recognizing the contributions of each individual

- Diversity
  - We believe in:
    - Understanding the inherent differences of people
    - Appreciating the value of these differences
    - Benefiting from the knowledge gained from diversity
  
- Stewardship
  - We believe in:
    - A safe and secure learning centered environment
    - Professional opportunities to enable staff to flourish
    - Being a source of pride for our community
    - Making fiscally responsible decisions
    - Making environmentally friendly decisions
    - Building a foundation for future success
  
- Citizenship
  - We believe in
    - Service to others
    - Community Participation
    - Democratic Process
  
- Innovation
  - We believe in:
    - Creativity
    - Openness to new ideas
    - Prudent risk-taking
    - Learning from all experiences

- Continuous improvement
- Flexibility, adaptability, agility
- Leadership
  - We believe in:
    - Providing students the capacity to lead
    - Supporting the process by growing from success and failure (not afraid to try)
    - Teaching leadership skills

What follows is a document listing the goals, strategies and progress made toward the achievement of our mission of providing an exceptional, personalized education for all students.

The five major goal areas are: Student Achievement, the Learning Environment, Community Involvement, Facilities and Equipment, and Financial Resources. Each year, progress toward the goals will be documented. Please come back and visit this document to see what great things are happening in Whitmore Lake Public Schools!

Whitmore Lake Public Schools

Vision 2013  
2009-2010 Year 2 Report

<b>Indicators of Success</b>		
<i>Goals</i>	<i>Strategies</i>	<i>2009-2010 Progress</i>
<p><b><u>Student Achievement:</u></b></p> <p>Our district establishes high expectations for all students and continually “raises the bar” for student performance at every level. Every student will establish and achieve challenging goals.</p> <p><u>Curriculum:</u> The curriculum offered by our district is innovative, broad-based, aligned with State standards, diverse in nature (presentation and perspective), and clearly articulated for students, parents, the community at-large, educators, and all other partners in the teaching and learning experience.</p> <p><u>Instruction:</u> Instruction provided in our district reflects current educational research and utilizes accepted “best practices.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All student curriculum material will be aligned in such a way that content is in accordance with State of Michigan Standards and Benchmarks from K-12.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Updates:</u></b></p> <p><b>PS: NAEYC accreditation standards are now integrated into the curriculum. Head Start staff used the Creative Curriculum online assessment tool which directly connected the curriculum to individual student development.</b></p> <p><b>ES: Continued to focus on writing skills building-wide. MEAP/MAP data was studied at all grade levels and curriculum adjusted as necessary.</b></p> <p><b>MS: Staff continued with its 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Reading Apprenticeship, a research based educational paradigm that teaches students strategies for reading and comprehending text in different academic areas.</b></p>

Assessment: Our district is committed to regular assessment of student achievement with a focus on mastery of State Standards and Benchmarks.

- In accordance with State graduation requirements, foreign language opportunities will be increased as budget permits.
- Student and staff use of technology will be integrated into curriculum work, with the expectation of developing students who are better prepared for life in a global society. Course outlines, staff lesson plans and web pages will include examples of integration of technology, as appropriate.
- In order to develop critically thinking, life-long learners, students will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of how to access information in a variety of ways.

**HS: Content in math and English language arts was aligned with College Readiness Standards which are part of MME testing requirements. Quality Core exams were required in math and ELA to ensure college readiness skills were taught.**

**Student achievement continues to be our top focus with MEAP/MME scores in several areas showing an increase over past years.**

**Budget restrictions have made it difficult to explore additional opportunities. Virtual opportunities are available for HS students at this time.**

**Web pages are active for 100% of teachers as of the 2009-2010 school year.**

**Staff members facilitate student understanding of how to access information in a variety of ways through classroom projects and assignments throughout the district. This area will be looked at specifically in 2010-2011 on a district wide basis.**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific strategies will be developed and utilized at each building to increase student achievement. MEAP/MME scores will be utilized as one method to show progress in this area.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Student data is studied at each building on a continual basis in order to increase student achievement.</b></p>
<p><b><u>Financial Resources:</u></b></p> <p>Our district responsibly manages financial resources to insure adequate funds to support district goals, programs and building needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our district intends to support the upcoming WISD County Enhancement Millage, intended to relieve pressure on local general fund budgets.</li> <li>• Fiscal responsibility will be maintained by closely monitoring state conditions and allocation of resources to meet the needs of students.</li> <li>• Our district will continue to partner with business and non-governmental organizations.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Unfortunately, the WISD County Enhancement Millage request failed in the November 2009 election.</b></p> <p><b>Both the Business Manager and Superintendent closely monitor the fiscal resources of the State of Michigan. The Business Manager has implemented a transparency reporting as required by the State of Michigan.</b></p> <p><b>The district works extensively with the Greater Whitmore Lake Area Kiwanis on programs to support and enhance the lives of students in our community. The district also continues to work cooperatively with our local township officials on common issues. A combined meeting of the township and Board of Education was held in the fall of 2009.</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities will be explored to support and maintain the capital assets of the district.</li> <li>• As buildings and facilities age, a plan for possible future bond projects will be developed to keep buildings operational and to be able to expand and redesign areas of need, in addition to considering land needs for future building opportunities.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Head Start stimulus funds were used for playground expansion in June 2010. A grant was applied for and received from Lowe's for \$5000 worth of playground equipment that was installed in June 2010.</b></p> <p><b>A community survey was developed and presented to the community for input beginning in August 2009. Due to the economy, it does not appear that this is a good time for a bond project in our community. The Board will continue to monitor the future capital needs of the school district.</b></p>
<p><b><u>Facilities and Equipment:</u></b></p> <p>Our district is committed to a comprehensive building and grounds maintenance and management program that supports district goals, programs and needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our district will continue to utilize preventative maintenance programs to extend the lifespan of our equipment and facilities.</li> <li>• Our district will continue to improve and maintain buildings, athletic fields and grounds.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The district utilizes a preventative maintenance program that remains in effect. New strategies will be implemented in 2010-2011 to further explore future maintenance needs.</b></p> <p><b>The district remains committed to improving and maintaining district equipment, but local economic</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our staff will continue to emphasize that the cleanliness of facilities (indoors and outdoors) is the responsibility of all staff, students and users of the facilities.</li> <li>• Our district maintains a high level of environmental stewardship by using environmentally friendly products and methods for cleaning.</li> </ul>	<p>conditions have made this more difficult recently.</p> <p><b>The average custodian in our district cleans approximately 60,000 square feet per day. Due to the economic conditions our custodial staff was reduced in 2009-2010, but the remaining staff members continue to do an excellent job of maintaining our buildings and grounds to the best of their ability. Environmentally friendly products are used when possible and when economically feasible.</b></p>
<p><b><u>Learning Environment</u></b></p> <p>Our district provides a safe, inviting and nurturing environment for all. The environment in our schools encourages students to take educational risks. The climate in our district reflects the understanding that diversity of thought, race, culture and ethnicity strengthens the schools.</p> <p>All members of our school community demonstrate integrity in the conduct of their daily activities. Each individual is treated with dignity and respect.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Character Education lessons will be integrated into the curriculum K-12 through various building-wide initiatives.</li> <li>• Well-defined disciplinary practices and procedures will be in place in each building and reviewed on a regular basis.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Character Education lessons are implemented during MS advisory and homeroom. The ES is a “bucket-filling” school. Children learn what it means at an early age to be a “bucket filler” instead of a “bucket dipper”. The program is repeated yearly for kindergarten and fourth graders.</b></p> <p><b>Building handbooks outline as specifically as possible the expectations of our students and subsequent disciplinary procedures. Handbooks are revised annually. All staff and students are expected to follow rules and regulations as listed in the handbook.</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students will be recognized for positive behaviors and contributions to our community.</li><li>• The district is committed to providing a safe environment for all students and partners with local agencies in this area. Staff members meet regularly to update policies and procedures in regards to the safety of students.</li><li>• Environmental stewardship is modeled by all staff members and integrated into the curriculum at all levels.</li></ul>	<p><b>Students are recognized regularly for their positive behaviors (Example: “I’m good for a Sub” at the MS). The HS will implemented a service cord program during the 2009-2010 school year to award students at graduation for community service efforts.</b></p> <p><b>The District Crisis Team meets regularly to update district procedures in regards to safety. All state-mandated drills are performed and documented on a yearly basis.</b></p> <p><b>Each building has a recycling program. The ES continues to be a “Green School” this yea and MS students collect recycled paper weekly from Central Office. HS students recycle paper and plastic bottles.</b></p>
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**Community Involvement**

Our community demonstrates a high degree of involvement, pride, support and ownership in the schools. Whitmore Lake Public Schools is committed to attracting and retaining students and their families to our district.

Our district is committed to meeting the needs of district stakeholders in a respectful and productive manner. Complaints and concerns are listened to and addressed in a timely fashion.

Whitmore Lake Public Schools is committed to partnering with other entities to encourage cooperation, elimination and duplication of offerings and services.

- Periodic community surveys will be utilized to gather information in order to make future decisions.
- Enrollment will be increased by highlighting our student achievement, our curriculum and personalized approach to education.
- Our district will maximize facility potential for the use of the community by actively marketing and advertising areas of availability.
- Committees will meet regularly to develop ways to assist members of our school community in understanding and communicating the positive aspects of our school district.

**A community survey was completed in the fall of 2009 and posted on the district website.**

**Our school of choice numbers increased from 2008-2009 to 2009-2010. The struggling Michigan economy has made it difficult for parents to move to new school districts. In addition a drop in birth rates statewide has affected student enrollment.**

**Community Recreation brochures have been redesigned and more classes have been added to better utilize our facilities.**

**We take our role as positive ambassadors for WLPS seriously. Each child, parent and community member (internally and externally) is given exceptional, personalized services. The District Communications Committee meets twice a year to develop ways to communicate the positive aspects of our school district to our community as well as the communities that surround our district. By working with a local billboard company we have been able to advertise our district on local billboards, thereby increasing awareness of our district.**

**Personnel**

Our district recruits, develops and retains the highest quality staff members available for all positions. Staff members are expected to continue to develop and expand upon their skills and work in the spirit of cooperation and teamwork. Our district works hard to demonstrate to the staff that they are appreciated for the work they do with and for our students.

- Staff appreciation activities will be implemented to recognize staff for the exceptional things they do for our students.
- Ongoing staff development activities will be targeted to support and align with district goals.
- Our district will provide staff members with the resources to be the best employee they can be through a well defined professional development plan.
- Our district expects all employees will be positive role models for proper use of district resources.

**EPE awards were presented on 2 occasions during the 2009-2010 school year. The Board of Education continues to look for ways to recognize staff members for their efforts.**

**Our staff development during 2009-2010 was focused on a variety of topics, including web page development, WISD initiatives and individual building curriculum focus areas.**

**The district has made an effort to utilize resources in the best way possible to provide our staff with excellent professional development opportunities. At WLPS this includes grant funded professional development opportunities, WISD supported initiatives, staff members observing each other and staff member visits to other school districts.**

**District employees model positive relationships with each other and environmentally friendly relationships with our community.**