

Strategic Plan 2007-2012

Guiding Principles (Core Values, Beliefs)

We will always...

Develop a Life-long love of learning

Embrace diversity

Create a caring and compassionate learning environment

Treat each other with respect and dignity

Be honorable, make good choices and accept responsibility for our actions

Inspire ourselves and others to reach our full potential

Vision (What we dream about happening at our school in a perfect world)

At Wards Creek Elementary, we provide an exceptional educational environment in which we guide each child to reach their full potential for a global future.

Mission (What we do each day at the school)

Our Mission is to...

Provide an environment where children enjoy coming to school, develop a strong foundation for learning, teach respect for ourselves, each other and the environment and follow our guiding principles each day of our life.

Curriculum Plan

Students are assessed three times during the year using ThinkLink assessments, STAR Reading and Math assessments and State FAIR Reading Assessment (Grades K & 1 Only). Students in grade four are given the FCAT Writes test in February of each year. This test along with the FCAT2.0 (see below) is used to determine the school grade for Florida schools. Students in grades three through five are also assessed using the Florida FCAT assessment during April of each year. Students in grade three who do not score above a Level 1 in Reading must be retained unless they qualify for one of the state's good cause exemptions (www.fcat.org). Results from this assessment are also used to determine the school grade for each school in the state of Florida.

Based on previous year's assessments, the following curriculum emphasis and teacher develop plans have been/are being implemented:

2007-08 Emphasis on Language Arts Skills; Increase library collection

2008 -09 Emphasis on Writing Skills

2009-2010 Emphasis on Math Skills

2010-2011 Increase library collection

2011-2012 Technology Refresh

Technology Plan

As the school opened, teachers were provided an audio-enhancement system, instructional technology cart that included a teacher laptop computer, wireless keyboard and mouse, video tape player and tuner, document camera, and a ceiling mounted LCD projector. Teachers were then able to request either 4-student computers or 2-student computers and a SmartBoard for

their classroom. Six computers were also installed in each of the house computer labs. Capital funds and PTO funds are scheduled to improve/increase technology in our school as follows:

2007-08 Teacher Training on Current Technology

2008-2009 SmartBoards for every classroom

2009-2010 Four student computers for every classroom and increase the number of computers in the media center to twelve; add HDTV camera to media center's television studio.

2010 – 2011 Complete the process of placing four computers in each classroom and eight computers in each house's mini-lab. Begin replacing LCD projector bulbs as needed. Begin upgrading the audio enhancement system (one house per year over the next five years).

2011-2012 Begin refresh plan to replace one-fifth of the student computers each year over the next five years. Upgrade the audio enhancement system (one house per year over the next four years).

Maintenance Plan

Wards Creek Elementary principal and maintenance coordinator will work with the District Facilities and Maintenance Departments to ensure that our building meets all health and safety requirements and is maintained to the high level of standards expected by our community. The principal will also work with the PTO to help fund some of the projects listed below. The following plan will help to ensure that this happens:

2007-08 Add an appropriate amount of wood chips around landscape, playground area and portables.

2008-09 Add additional grass to the west side of the building; Install shade port over basketball court.

2009-10 Add irrigation system to play area; add additional grass around the building, and improve the grass on the PE field; add Energy Management System to all school lighting.

2010-2011 Repaint interior of the building and begin to refresh one-half of the building's hallway floor tile; Install shade port over outdoor art classroom; Install plastic wind blocks in hallways between main building and purple house.

2011-2012 Replace one-half of the building's hallway floor tile. Add additional playground equipment. Re-sealing parking lots.

Communication Plan

Communication between parents and teachers is vital to the success of our students. Since the inception of our school, our school's web page (www-wce.stjohns.k12.fl.us) has been the primary means to keep our parents informed about events and activities at our school. Paper newsletters are not sent home to parents. Teachers are also required to maintain and weekly update their own class web page. This page includes instructional themes for the week, homework assignments and other relevant information pertaining to that specific classroom. Parents are also encouraged to email teachers when they have questions and/or concerns. A phone voicemail system is also available for all teachers at our school. Teachers are required to check their

voicemail and email daily and must return any calls/email within 48 hours of receipt. Parents of students in grades three through five have the capability of monitoring their child's grades through the District's Parent Assistant web page. This is a secure site where parents can check daily assignments and grades. Wards Creek Elementary also participates in the District's Alert Now program that allows the school to contact all parents via a phone call at a moment's notice or when necessary to notify parents of upcoming events or important information. An annual survey is offered to every parent each year to allow parents to express their feelings on the school's success and to provide suggestions for improvement each year. Results of this survey are posted on the School Advisory Council's web page.

Review and Revise Plan

The Wards Creek Elementary Strategic Plan will be reviewed yearly by the staff and School Advisory Council and adjusted as necessary. A new five-year strategic plan will be written by the School Advisory Council during the 2011-2012 school year. Please direct any comments about the Strategic Plan to the school's principal.