

**Spirit Lake Middle School  
Principal's Year-End Report  
2022 - 2023  
Submitted by Terry Bruinsma**

The middle school had another wonderful year! There were many opportunities for learning and growth that took place. The middle school staff continues to challenge students on both the academic and non-academic side of learning. Middle school staff continue work on implementation of our success (trust, responsibility, relationships, positive, encourage, empathy, and respect) to better equip our students with relevant/real-world applications. These core skills help guide teaching and learning in a 21st century environment at the middle school. Students saw new initiatives implemented at the middle school while keeping with our continued level of high expectations.



### **Iowa Assessment Scores (ISASP):**

As we've reported out a number of times during this past school year, we are super excited to let people know that our middle school building achieved the High Performing status for the 21-22 school year. We were ranked as the 4th highest performing middle school in the state! This comes from hard work, focus, and purpose by our students and staff. Our initial individual results for the 22-23 school year were received at the end of the school year and we are encouraged by those as well. We should receive our new building signification in the fall. Whatever our achievement level is, we know it will be the result of great effort by our students and staff. State testing isn't always an accurate measure of progress but we believe the results we've received shows the effort by our students and staff.

### **A Few Highlights from the school year:**

- **School of the Wild**

The Spirit Lake middle school in conjunction with The University of Iowa gave students a week-long outdoor education experience called School of the Wild. School of the Wild is an immersive program that allows students to experience the outdoors with small group sizes and experienced naturalists and teachers. Spirit Lake middle school received contributions from Lakeside Labs, The Methodist Camp, DNR, The Nature Center, Iowa State Extension, as well as a host of other volunteers. Students were able to experience hiking, biking, high ropes courses, fishing, water quality testing, kayaking, outdoor cooking and art, and other great activities. It was a great week of education for students to get to know their local environment and all that it has to offer. We look forward to continuing this programming in the future.

### **[School of the Wild Video](#)**







- **MS Talent/Art Show**

Last year the Spirit Lake middle school hosted its first ever art show, this year the format changed a bit and we hosted the first ever Talent and Art show this winter. Typically each year select students get their art work chosen for display at the Pierson Lakes Art center for the Dickinson County all school show - which is amazing!! However, this year we added an in-house Talent and Art show for all students in grades k-8. With the new space at the middle school we were able to host this new Talent and Art show and get people really excited about it. It was a huge success and was greatly attended by students and families. Our students' creative talents were on full display! We will certainly be doing this show again next year!



- **Inaugural Color Run**

A new event took place at the beginning of the school year, a color run. Our middle school parent group (PIE) helped to organize a fundraiser to support the middle school. The color run was a smashing success! We are so fortunate to have parents and community members who support our schools and are willing to put in work to give back. The success of the color run speaks volumes about our community. I can't wait to see the involvement of the run this year!





- **Spring Academy**

The middle school once again provided our students with a hands-on week of project-based learning in the Spring called Spring Academy. This year, however, we did Spring Academy the last week of school. This change provided students and staff with better Spring weather and new opportunities for learning. It was also a great way to finish the school year. Students and staff gave positive reviews for this timing change and we suspect we will be doing it again next year.



# Middle school Building Goals 2022-23

**Building Goal:** Through the cooperation and collaboration of all stakeholders our middle school will promote an environment that lives out our building's mission to *Positively Impact the Lives of Others.*

## **Teaching and Learning Goal:**

- The middle school will continue to implement our success skills at all levels. We will reevaluate our middle school success skills and develop a simplified version of skills for each grade level.
  - **GOAL MET/IN PROGRESS** - As a middle school we reorganized our success skills to be centered around more of our district-wide culture playbook. We moved away from assigning our success skills to particular grade levels and more to different times of the year. This goal will continue to serve us well as we strive to better our school culture and climate using these tools.
- Staff will plan and implement more learning opportunities that are accessible to students in a blended/flipped classroom model.
  - **GOAL MET** - Each teacher maintained and updated their online classrooms (google classroom). Some teachers expanded their online lessons and classrooms to include video lessons, daily chats, and check-in's
  - Example, Mr. Petty's 5th grade math -
    - [Online math lesson](#)
- The middle school will provide learning opportunities that continue to utilize the new learning space in the middle school. These learning opportunities will promote both large and small groups, along with collaborative instruction and learning.
  - **GOAL MET** - Many collaborative learning opportunities happened in our new space - group projects, presentations, e-sports, 3D printing, Graphic design, Drones, VR education, etc.
- Fall and Spring Academy at the middle school will be new and unique for 2022-23, with a continued focus on providing an exciting learning experience for students that is purposeful and engaging. We will reevaluate courses and offerings by grade level.
  - **GOAL MET** - In collaboration with the University of Iowa and other local entities our Fall Academy is now School of the Wild. This is now an immersive outdoor education week that utilizes many of our wonderful local outdoor resources. Also, Spring Academy was changed to the last week of school and continues to offer project based learning for middle school students.

## **Achievement Goals:**

### Reading Goal for 2022-2023

- Increase the percentage of students in cohort (5th-7th) achieving growth.
- Increase the percentage of students reaching proficiency.
  - 5th - Met (percent moved from 75% to 84%)
  - 6th - Not Met (percent moved from 72% to 65%)
  - 7th - Met (percent moved from 80% to 90%)
  - Overall 5th - 7th percent proficient, 72%

### Math Goal for 2022 - 2023

- Increase the percentage of students in cohort (5th-7th) achieving growth.
- Increase the percentage of students reaching proficiency.
  - 5th - Not Met (percent moved from 87% to 83%)
  - 6th - Not Met (percent moved from 87% to 74%)
  - 7th - Not Met (percent moved from 86% to 83%)
  - Overall 5th - 7th percent proficient, 82%

### Science Goal for 2022 - 2023

- Increase the percentage of students in cohort (5th & 8th) achieving growth.
- Increase the percentage of students reaching proficiency 5th and 8th.
  - 8th - Met (percent moved from 73% to 78%)
  - 5th - No data present at this time.

## **Proficiency Numbers:**

### ***Math***

2020-2021 - 71%

2021-2022 - 86.5%

2022-2023 - 82.3%

### ***Reading***

2020-2021 - 78%

2021-2022 - 79%

2022-2023 - 75.6%

### ***Science***

2020-2021 - 67%

2021-2022 - 73.5%

2022-2023 - 68.6%

**Behavior Data:**

School Year	Total Referrals	Physical/Verbal Aggression & Harassment
2003-04	434	61
2004-05	466	63
2005-06	502	51
2006-07	646	52
2007-08	1640	188
2008-09	1323	218
2009-10	1108	149
2010-11	969	139
2011-12	307	50
2012-13	108	32
2013-14	119	23
2014-15	56	11
2015-16	50	12
2016-17	42	8
2017-18	48	8
2018-19	51	7
2019-20	53	5
2020-2021	35	5
2021-2022	57	7
2022-2023	61	8

Behavior referral numbers were similar to last year's data. It seems that our behavior issues happen more frequently in the second half of the school year as well as during unstructured times. Recess and lunch times can be tough for some students to maintain appropriate conduct. We are looking at adjusting recess materials and activities for next year along with appropriate resources for students during the very cold months. We also did have one expulsion this year due to a threat using a firearm. This is the first expulsion in my 11 years as principal.

**Attendance:**

Thirteen years of attendance data is available for review. The average daily attendance (ADA) percentages are listed below.

***Average Daily Attendance:***

2007-2008	96.06%
2008-2009	95.92%
2009-2010	95.14%
2010-2011	94.90%
2011-2012	95.12%
2012-2013	95.06%
2013-2014	95.41%



2014-2015	95.04%
2015-2016	95.55%
2016-2017	95.49%
2017-2018	95.62%
2018-2019	94.83%
2019-2020	95.74%
2020-2021	95.85%
2021-2022	92.56%
2022-2023	92.8%

### **Dropout Data for the Spirit Lake Middle School - Grades 7 and 8**

#### **Dropout Data**

Grade	#students		#Dropouts		# of IEP's	# of IEP D. O.
	M	F	M	F		
7	46	39	0	0	9	0
8	52	39	0	0	11	0

#### **Demographic Data:**

##### **Student Enrollment:**

Grade	Male	Female	Total
5	52	39	91
6	51	41	92
7	62	33	95
8	47	39	86

Total = 364

#### **Student Demographic information:**

White - 322, 87%

Black - 2, .005%

Hispanic - 25, .067%

Native American - 0, .0%

Asian - 0, .0%

Multiracial - 20, .05%

Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander - 2, .005%

Special Ed - 67 .18%

Talented and Gifted - 49, .13%

#### **Faculty/Staff Demographic Information**

Full Time Faculty - 23

Part Time Faculty - 4

Support Staff - 1 ½ Secretaries, 11 Associates, 2 custodians, 4 kitchen staff

Faculty Degrees - Several Staff members have advanced degrees.

BA - 13

BA+ 15 -

BA+ 30 - 3

MA - 8

MA+ 15 - 0

MA+ 30 - 4

**Percent of faculty responsible for instruction who participated in professional development**

This past year we had 100% participation from our faculty in professional development. Every staff member attended professional development throughout the year although some staff members did not attend each day.