



2011 - 2012 Local School Plan For Improvement

LSPI Objectives

LANIER MIDDLE

Jaime A Espinosa, *Principal*

Dr. Steven W Flynt, *Area Superintendent*

Accountability and flexibility are hallmarks of Gwinnett County Public Schools' success. Key to that success is ensuring that each school community understands the progress being made by its schools, as well as what plans will drive improvement. Each school creates a collaborative Local School Plan for Improvement (LSPI), with targeted goals based on student achievement results. These goals are dynamic, like our schools, and are updated to reflect changes that occur in schools. Data is used to determine areas needing improvement and to identify specific, measurable, annual objectives. Schools then determine how to use research-based strategies to achieve these goals, using flexibility as needed. The LSPI development process involves teachers, parents, and community members, so the entire school community has the opportunity to be involved in conversations about school improvement. Please contact the local school principal for more information about the school's plan and progress.

2011-2012 Long Term Goals and Objectives

Goal: Lanier Middle School students will increase academic performance in all content areas to exceed Adequate Yearly Progress and to be prepared to meet the challenges of high school and beyond.

Objective: Lanier Middle School will increase academic performance in math for all students, focusing on all subgroups, to meet or exceed annual targets through collaborative planning with subject area teachers for targeted interventions, critical thinking, computation and problem-solving strategies, writing in the content area strategies, and vocabulary development.

Objective: Lanier Middle School will increase academic performance in science for all students, focusing on all major subgroups, to meet or exceed annual targets through collaborative planning with subject area teachers for targeted interventions, increased inclusion in general education classrooms, critical thinking and problem solving strategies, writing in the content area strategies, and vocabulary development.

LANIER MIDDLE

LSPI Continued

Jaime A Espinosa, *Principal*

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2011-2012 Long Term Goals and Objectives

Objective: Lanier Middle School will increase academic performance in literacy (reading, language arts, and writing) for all students, focusing on subgroups, to meet or exceed annual targets through collaborative planning with subject area teachers for targeted interventions, an extended learning time, critical thinking and problem solving strategies, and writing in the content area focus.

Objective: Lanier Middle School will increase academic performance in social studies for all students, focusing on all major subgroups, to meet or exceed annual targets through collaborative planning with subject area teachers for targeted interventions, critical thinking and problem solving strategies, writing in the content area strategies, and vocabulary development.

Objective: Lanier Middle School will increase the attendance rate of all subgroups in all grades to meet or exceed annual targets through continued implementation of the local school incentive program, teachers as advisor program, and teacher/counselor/administrative protocol for student absentee issues.

LANIER MIDDLE

LSPI Continued

Jaime A Espinosa, *Principal*

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Schools Goals - LANIER MIDDLE

Goal Title	Goal	Start School Year	End School Year
All Students Will Succeed	Lanier Middle School students will increase academic performance in all content areas to exceed Adequate Yearly Progress and to be prepared to meet the challenges of high school and beyond.	2010-11	2011-12

Annual Objective

Lanier Middle School will increase academic performance in math for all students, focusing on all subgroups, to meet or exceed annual targets through collaborative planning with subject area teachers for targeted interventions, critical thinking, computation and problem-solving strategies, writing in the content area strategies, and vocabulary development.

Associated Goals

Goal: All Students Will Succeed

Implementation Design

21st Century Learning

Tony Wagner's seven survival skills, as outlined in *The Global Achievement Gap*, Trilling and Fadel's *21st Century Skills: Learning for Life in Our Times*, and Jim Burke's *What's the Big Idea?* will serve as a focus for teachers as they examine how skills outlined in each book can be incorporated into their instructional practices. These research based skills are essential for all of today's learners if they are to be successful in school and beyond.

SD: 21st Century Skills: Learning for Life in Our Times

21st Century Learner professional development sessions will take activities and lessons teachers are currently using and integrate learning and innovation skills, digital literacy skills, and career and life skills where appropriate. Teachers will actively seek/develop new resources .

LANIER MIDDLE

LSPI Continued

Jaime A Espinosa, *Principal*

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SD: Big Idea

This seven session staff development course will focus on how meaningful, clear questions help students grapple with content and deepen comprehension, make learning stick by building connections, and clarify and extend their thinking.

SD: Global Achievement

The Global Achievement staff development sessions will focus on Tony Wagner's seven survival skills. Teachers will work in small learning groups to examine each of the seven skills and share how these skills can be implemented as part of their instructional tool box.

Teachers will participate in Learning Walks to observe their colleagues in action. During the Learning Walks, teachers will be looking for examples of seven survival skills.

They will also spend time debriefing with their Global Achievement Learning Group about their observations, insights, questions, etc.

iPASS and USA Test Prep

Lanier Middle School will utilize iPASS and USA Test Prep as instructional tools to increase computation and problem-solving skills for all students. In addition, iPASS will be used with Tier II and Tier III math RTI students and SWD students as a targeted intervention. Students will participate during the regular school day as well as after school and during Saturday Academic School.

LANIER MIDDLE

LSPI Continued

Jaime A Espinosa, *Principal*

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Improving Math Instruction

Science teachers will improve results through collaborative planning, engaging instructional practices, evaluation of student work, peer observations/debriefings, results driven assessments, and ownership of all students.

SD: Curriculum Collaboration

Teachers will collaborate to focus on content area achievement by utilizing common/interim assessments, evaluation of student work, peer observations/debriefings, data analysis, and goal setting/monitoring during grade level curriculum meetings this year.

SD: Dan Mulligan

Dan Mulligan will work with Lanier Cluster math teachers on November 17, 2011 to learn instructional strategies designed to improve student engagement and achievement.

SD: MATH INSTITUTE - MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Math Institute provides effective professional learning through modeling by “master” teachers, peer coaching, and debriefing discussions. Following the summer workshop, ongoing mentoring by the cluster leaders and implementing of best practices should be evident.

SD: MATH ONLINE TUTORIALS TO IMPROVE VERTICAL ALIGNMENT - MIDDLE SCHOOL

This course is designed to provide teachers an opportunity to understand the vertical alignment in mathematics from 5th to 9th grades. Teachers could earn 1 PLU for going through the online tutorials that are provided free of charge to teachers through Online Campus. This self-paced course should conclude with vertical conversations at the local school to improve teaching and learning of Mathematics. Teachers will be required to go through the tutorials one grade level below the grade they are teaching and one grade level above the grade they are teaching.

SD: MATH STAFF DEVELOPMENT - MIDDLE SCHOOL

This course is designed to provide staff development sessions 5 times throughout the year. The sessions are imbedded with the Quality-Plus teaching strategies and aligned with the mathematics instructional calendars. The courses available are: • 6th Standard • 6th Accelerated • 7th Standard • 7th Accelerated • 8th Standard • 8th Accelerated All teachers are encouraged to attend. This includes, veteran, new, ELL, special education, and gifted. A follow-up session will be provided through Elluminate. Additional follow-up after each session should be provided at the local school.

LANIER MIDDLE

LSPi Continued

Jaime A Espinosa, *Principal*

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SD: Vertical Math Team

Lanier Middle School Math Teachers will meet six times this school year to work vertically so as to share instructional strategies, build math vocabulary, develop common research practices, and analyze student work and assessment results.

Lanier Technology

Beginning in 2012, "Tech Literacy" will be added to our Nation's Report Card. This means student proficiency in the application of technology will be measured for the first time. It isn't just layering technology over traditional core competencies, though. It's about totally integrating the two for success in an increasingly competitive world.

In preparation for the coming technology assessment, educational leaders are seeing heightened pressure to provide hard data on how well their students are progressing, how effective their teachers are, and how technology instruction is helping students solve real-world problems.

SD: Digital Media

During technology staff development classes, teachers will learn a variety of digital media strategies that can be integrated in daily lessons and activities, thus building digital literacy in teachers.

LANIER MIDDLE

LSPi Continued

Jaime A Espinosa, *Principal*

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Leading Through Literacy

Students will write in all curriculum areas during our Extended Learning period. Each nine weeks, students will rotate through their academic teachers to produce a short, content specific writing for each subject. The writing prompt for these writings will be designed by each curriculum area. Teachers will score the writing piece using the GA writing rubric.

Teachers will create opportunities for students to write about their learning through open ended questions, performance based assessments, math exemplars, etc.

SD: INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES FOR ELLS

This staff development opportunity is intended to help teachers understand the purpose of and effectively utilize the AKS Modification/Intervention Plan. Participants will be provided with materials to help them create performance indicators using Language Functions & Supports, as well as the Q+ Instructional Strategies for ELLs. This is an opportunity to work on the plan as it relates to their ELLs at the appropriate levels of Language Acquisition.

SD: LANGUAGE ARTS VISION CONFERENCE SERIES [MS-HS]

Two (Saturday) opportunities during the 11-12 school year to hear nationally recognized speakers address critical issues in literacy research.

SD: SECONDARY (6-12) SUMMER LITERACY INSTITUTE

Three-day conference for teachers of all content areas focusing on the appropriate implementation of literacy-rich strategies in the classroom.

SD: Writing Across the Curriculum

Lanier Middle School participated in a variety of training sessions presented by the Georgia Center for Assessment on writing. Teachers will receive follow-up training on the 4 domains of the 8th grade writing test rubric and how to score writing assessments in their content areas. Writing assessment design, specific writing strategies, and scoring will be integrated into all staff development sessions to determine the writing skills most applicable to each content area.

Annual Objective

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LANIER MIDDLE

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Associated Goals

Goal: All Students Will Succeed

Implementation Design

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LANIER MIDDLE

LSPi Continued

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Improving Science Instruction

Science teachers will improve results through collaborative planning, engaging instructional practices, evaluation of student work, peer observations/debriefings, results driven assessments, and ownership of all students.

SD: ACCELERATED SCIENCE TEACHERS COHORT

After-school sessions have the primary goal of increasing student performance in accelerated science courses as the participation continues to increase. The training will explore the complexity of our current grade level AKS standards, examine the accelerated standards; providing strategies for teaching them. Instructional plans are developed, modeled, and practiced to guide the daily lesson planning for accelerated teachers.

SD: Curriculum Collaboration

Teachers will collaborate to focus on content area achievement by utilizing common/interim assessments, evaluation of student work, peer observations/debriefings, data analysis, and goal setting/monitoring during grade level curriculum meetings this year.

LANIER MIDDLE

LSPi Continued

Jaime A Espinosa, *Principal*

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SD: HIGHLY ENGAGED SCIENCE CLASSROOM (MIDDLE SCHOOL)

A series of four in-school sessions (quarterly) for middle school science teachers that provides staff development in the area of student engagement; particularly as it relates to planning for engagement in science instruction. The series is based upon the work in Robert Marzano and Debra Pickering's book, *The Highly Engaged Classroom*. Each session will include both staff development and guided collaborative planning by content area.

Session 1: Engagement Theory & Attention vs. Engagement

Teachers will explore the research and theory related to student engagement in the classroom; learning the questions that students internalize as they decide how fully to attend to a lesson.

Session 2: Planning Daily Strategies to Engage Students in the Science Classroom

Teachers will explore daily strategies that can be employed to increase the level of student engagement, including: effective pacing, enthusiasm, relationships, and feedback.

Session 3: Planning Opportunistic Strategies to Engage Students in the Science Classroom

Teachers will explore opportunities within upcoming lessons where engagement strategies naturally fit the content. For example: movement, humor, games, friendly controversy, unusual information, etc.

Session 4: Planning Extended Strategies to Engage Students in the Science Classroom

Teachers will explore strategies to extend student engagement throughout the duration of a year-long course. Strategies include: goal setting, problem solving, and including real-world activities.

SD: Lanier Cluster Vertical Team

Science teachers from the Lanier Cluster will participate in professional learning designed to increase their depth of knowledge through vertical alignment of science vocabulary, content, and document based writing.

LANIER MIDDLE

LSPI Continued

Jaime A Espinosa, *Principal*

Dr. Steven W Flynt, *Area Superintendent*

SD: MS SCIENCE STAFF DEVELOPMENT

After-school sessions have the primary goal of improving student achievement in science by connecting the AKS with the expected performance-based student outcomes at each grade level. The 6-8 sessions are offered by grade level and are in time with the corresponding instructional calendar.

The science sessions will focus on problem solving and include the vertical alignment of scientific processing, vocabulary lists, document based questions, mathematics integration, mastery-based lab activities, relevant technology, and integrates the modeling of Quality-Plus Instructional Strategies. Instructional plans are developed, modeled, and practiced to guide the daily lesson planning for middle school teachers.

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LANIER MIDDLE

LSPi Continued

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Leading Through Literacy

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SD: LANGUAGE ARTS VISION [MS-HS]

Year-long series of sessions (one Saturday per month) to build consistent, pervasive, and rigorous literacy practices that align with our district expectations for literacy teaching and learning in all content areas.

SD: SECONDARY (6-12) SUMMER LITERACY INSTITUTE

Three-day conference for teachers of all content areas focusing on the appropriate implementation of literacy-rich strategies in the classroom.

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Associated Goals

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Improving Social Studies Instruction

Social studies teachers will improve results through collaborative planning, engaging instructional practices, evaluation of student work, peer observations/debriefings, results driven assessments, and ownership of all students.

SD: BUILDING LITERACY IN SOCIAL STUDIES

This course is designed to incorporate literacy skills into social studies content. Lessons and resources that support the Q-Plus strategies and AKS will be given.

SD: Curriculum Collaboration

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SD: USING QPLUS STRATEGIES AND ASSESSMENT IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES CLASSROOM

This interactive session will provide teachers with lessons and activities that incorporate the QPTS to the AKS and Instructional Calendar.

SD: WRITING STRATEGIES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES

This class will give teachers ways to reinforce writing activities in the content of their social studies classes. Ideas for single paragraph prompts will be discussed. How to use graphic organizers to facilitate writing as well as using rubrics for scoring will be covered.

SD: "ARE YOU A LECTURE-HOLIC ?" A 12 STEP-RECOVERY [MS]

This workshop will discuss research-based concepts on why the traditional mode of delivering content in the social studies classroom does not typically lead to high student achievement and success. Participants will be provided with hands-on strategies and activities that will deliver content in ways to promote active engagement in the lecture. Participants will take a look a "sample lecture notes" and construct ways to improve the delivery of the content.

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LANIER MIDDLE

LSPI Continued

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Associated Goals

Goal: All Students Will Succeed

Implementation Design

Attendance Through Advisement

Teachers will work with their Advisement (Student-Teacher-Enhancing-Engaging-Relationships) groups about the importance of school attendance on academic success. There are targeted Advisement lessons specific to attendance.

Protocol for Monitoring Attendance

Classroom teachers will call home on the second consecutive absence and notify the grade level AP and attendance clerk of outcome. Once a five day attendance letter is sent, the counselor will call home to parent.

After the 10 day letter is sent home, the counselor will convene a SARC with teachers, parent, AP, and social worker to design an attendance plan for the student. Counselors will work with student who receive attendance letters.

Teachers as Advisors

The Lanier Middle School advisement program fosters meaningful connections between teachers and students and focuses on creating academic gains for each student. Lanier Middle School observes this program on Fridays during extended lunch time where teachers serve as mentors and resources to students. The topics target academic achievement, goal setting, and individual improvement - all of which include the importance of school attendance.

SD: Advisement 2012-2013

The Advisement Team will prepare teachers for this year's Advisement focus and lessons.