School Improvement Action Plan

MEDT 6462

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Overview

Presently, there are seven-hundred and ninety-eight students enrolled at Adamson Middle School (AMS). AMS has only one computer lab with forty computers that are available for student use during instructional time. Seven literacy classes for all grade levels have three computers per classroom while math, social studies and science have only two. Additionally, there are two outdated mobile labs which have fifteen laptops available for use. AMS utilizes all computers in an effort for students to practice on Study Island in all subjects as they prepare for the Georgia Criterion Referenced Competency Test (CRCT). AMS teachers are working hard to ensure that students at meet standards in all subject areas of the CRCT – reading, language arts, math, social studies and science.

AMS has a tech savvy literacy coach who works along with the media specialist and her assistant to ensure that the school's technology equipment is working properly. If there is a problem with the technology equipment that they can not fix, a work order will be sent to management information systems office (MIS) and a technician is generally sent within twenty four to forty-eight hours. AMS teachers incorporate technology into their lessons and welcome new ideas to help students achieve academic success.

Needs Assessment

In 2006-2007, AMS did not meet AYP. For school year 2007-2008, teachers and administration pulled together and worked hard by offering tutoring, incentives to increase academic achievement on county benchmarks, notifying parents of poor academic performance and behavior as well as offered remediation. Additionally,

teachers targeted students who needed additional help by holding them back from their connections classes twice a month to review skills taught in class. Last year AMS, made Academic Year Progress by a *very* narrow margin based on CRCT results despite the accreditation problems the county was facing (and is still trying to overcome).

This year, faculty and administration would like to ensure that more students at least meet standards in all subjects by a comfortable margin. One area of concern that has been identified is the sixth grade class where only fifty-eight percent of sixth graders passed CRCT in their fifth year. Teachers are required to take students to the computer lab or use the mobile lab once a week during the literacy block. Because the amount of students passing the CRCT is one of the indicators used to determine whether a school makes Academic Yearly Progress (AYP), AMS teachers and administration are proactive in providing students as much hands on prep time using Study Island on computers that are available at the school.

As a sixth grade literacy teacher, I noticed that students in all three of my classes are struggling in reading and do not have a grasp of basic skills in comprehension and language arts. I think that solid instruction followed by reinforcing skills using Study Island would give my students a strong foundation required to meet standards on the CRCT. Class sizes are anywhere from twenty-four to thirty in many of the classes. All AMS students would benefit from solid instruction and increase use of Study Island. We have started a school wide effort for students to use Study Island in the computer lab and in the classrooms the mornings but that is only from 8:20 - 8:40 AM daily. This is not enough time for majority of students to prep for the CRCT because students arrive at different times and the limited amount of computers that are available for use.

In House Survey – AMS Teachers	No	Yes
Do you feel that students have enough time in the computer lab to use Study Island at school to prepare for the CRCT?	16	4
If available, would you be interested in overseeing students while they use laptops for the purpose of working on Study Island?	2	18
Do you believe that increased use of Study Island at school can better prepare students for taking the CRCT?	1	19
Are you interested in data analysis training to help you prepare differentiated instruction for students who are not proficient in areas as identified after taking Study Island tests?	3	17
Do you support the idea of the school investing in the purchase of one hundred laptops for student use?	6	14

Student Survey	No	Yes
Do you have access to a computer at your home?	28	22
If so, does your family have internet access?	8	14

According to the above survey that was completed by twenty teachers from AMS, they would like to incorporate the use of laptops more often to help students prep for the CRCT using Study Island. In my opinion, students should have at least three sessions per week for thirty minutes at a time. The majority of teachers would not mind overseeing their students use laptops; therefore all students would be monitored and teachers would make sure that they take their Study Island tests in a timely manner. This also would ensure that teachers have the data needed to target those students who need additional help.

I have noticed this year that more and more students do not have access to computers because some say older siblings will not let them use the computer or parents

will not let them get on the computer.   On the other hand, as the economy continues to nosedive, parents may eliminate extra costs in an effort to make ends meet.

Plan of Action

My goal for this Improvement Plan is to maximize student achievement on the CRCT through the increased use of Study Island. To meet this goal, AMS needs one hundred laptops made available for student use. The easiest way to make the laptops available is to utilize wireless access points that connect through the local area network (LAN). Because the building has an existing infrastructure, it will be more beneficial to make use of the existing architecture keeping costs to a minimum. Additionally, teachers will be trained on analyzing data to differentiate instruction. This will allow teachers to target students who need assistance; teachers can then plan accordingly.

The first step in the plan is to implement a technology committee to discuss funding for purchase of laptop computers and wireless access points. The committee will also discuss class schedules and training for teachers on use of data analysis from Study Island.

The second step in the plan is to inform faculty about the school wide incentive to help students at least meet standards on the CRCT through increased use of Study Island with a set class schedule and additional laptops. Teachers will also be informed about training that will be established showing teachers how to better use their data from Study Island to better serve struggling students.

The third step of the plan is to fund the purchase of one hundred laptops and four wireless access point units. Assuming we are granted the request, MIS would install the wireless access points.

The fourth step of the plan is to find a secure location on each of the three hallways that would serve as storage facility for each grade level. Each grade level will have thirty-two computers each. The additional four will serve as back ups in case if one is damaged or malfunctions.

The fifth step of the plan is to establish meeting times to instruct teachers on the use of data analysis and to give them class schedules for use of the laptops. The purpose of data analysis is to make sure that all students are receiving the benefit of increase computer use. As mentioned before, teachers will be responsible for analyzing data and ensuring that students receive extra help is needed. Teachers will also receive a brief overview on how to use the laptops and where to store them.

Summary

AMS faculty are dedicated to providing a world class education for all students and are concerned about making AYP; therefore they are looking forward to embracing the aforementioned plan of action to help students maximize achievement. We must pull together as a staff to come up with the funding to purchase the much needed equipment to help students succeed on the CRCT. Teachers will be trained to set up notebook and data analysis from Study Island in an effort to monitor all students' results. Differentiated instruction is important to the success of this plan along with increased usage of Study Island.

Statement of Value

I am very concerned about the scores that our students received on the CRCT in 2007-2008 and as I completed this assignment, it forced me to look at what would help our students. I strongly believe that if students have more time to prepare for a

standardized test such as CRCT using Study Island, then they will be able to meet standards and possibly exceed standards as well. Our children need the right resources and teachers to help them succeed academically. As we move towards the future, not only will increase use of the computer help them to succeed academically but it begins to build a foundation toward giving students what they need to compete in a global economy. AMS is like a family and will pull together in an effort to find funds through a grant or fundraisers to purchase the required one hundred computers and four wireless access points.

Budget Items

Date	Equipment and Training	Costs
January 1, 2009	HP Laptops	100 x 400 = $40,000
January 1, 2009	Wireless Access Points	4 x 100 = $400
February 1, 2009	Data Analysis Training	None – provided by Literacy Coach