

**Nissitissit Middle School
School Improvement Plan
2017-2018**



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**North Middlesex Regional School District
Nissitissit Middle School Improvement Plan
2017-2018**

Mission

The mission of the Nissitissit Middle School is to recognize the unique needs of the middle school student while providing a safe and respectful learning environment that inspires the students to exhibit the values of **GREAT:**
Grit, Resilience, Effort, Attitude, Try Again.

Vision

The Nissitissit Middle School is dedicated to working with students, families, and the community to ensure that every student is achieving at his or her potential. The social and emotional health of all students is supported in an engaging, inspiring, and challenging learning environment necessary for student success.

Core Values

- The well-being of our students is at the heart of what we do.
 - Learning is a lifelong process for both students and staff.
- A safe and supportive school climate is essential to student success.
- All members of the North Middlesex community have the capacity to grow and develop their character.
 - We respect diversity in all its forms.

Theory of Action

If we...

- Develop and implement an engaging, rigorous curriculum aligned with state standards
- Strengthen our instructional practices that promote purposeful student engagement in learning
- Provide a school climate that supports the social and emotional well-being of students and staff
 - Sustain and expand partnerships among families, schools, and community
- Support academic growth by leveraging technology and digital resources to ensure our students are immersed in rich, authentic, relevant learning experiences that utilize *21st Century* skills

Then, we will prepare our students to be successful in both education and life.

Strategic Objectives

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| <p>1. Develop and implement an engaging, rigorous <u>curriculum</u> aligned with state standards.</p> | <p>2. Strengthen the <u>instructional practices</u> that promote purposeful student engagement in learning.</p> | <p>3. Provide a <u>school climate</u> that supports the social and emotional well-being of students and staff.</p> | <p>4. Sustain and expand <u>partnerships</u> among families, schools, and the community.</p> | <p>5. Support academic growth by leveraging <u>technology and digital resources</u> to ensure our students are immersed in rich, authentic, relevant learning experiences that utilize <i>21st Century</i> skills.</p> |
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Strategic Initiatives

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| <p>1.1 Develop and implement common assessments (formative, summative) that leverage teacher expertise and ensure student success through data analysis. *</p> | <p>2.1 Review and revise the District Curriculum Accommodation Plan (DCAP) including necessary supports related to the social emotional health of students. *</p> | <p>3.1 Identify the social/emotional needs of students, staff, and families within individual buildings and the district as a whole and develop effective curriculum and supports. *</p> | <p>4.1 Create and implement a plan to improve district communication. *</p> | <p>5.1 Review, revise, and implement expectations for district technology use and student access.*</p> |
| <p>1.2 Provide teachers with differentiated professional development addressing the newly designed curriculum maps, resulting in developing a deeper understanding of what they are teaching, why, and timelines.*</p> | <p>2.2 Identify successful teaching practices across the district in the area of student engagement and support teacher-led professional development opportunities such as workshops, peer observations, mentoring, and co-teaching to share</p> | <p>3.2 Provide appropriate professional development in order to build staff capacity in efforts to address the social emotional needs of students and families.</p> | <p>4.2 Create a hybrid of curriculum opportunities with higher level learning so that students will be able to expand their knowledge in specific areas and explore post-high school education.</p> | <p>5.2 Locate and/or develop digital platforms to analyze common assessment data in real-time to support effective teaching and our students' learning.</p> |

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| <p>1.3 Monitor student growth and assessment data to determine the effectiveness of the curriculum. Review and revise curriculum on an ongoing basis.*</p> | <p>and develop best practices for instruction. *</p> <p>2.3 Monitor student progress in relation to delivery of instruction and student growth at all levels to provide ongoing assessment and revision of instructional practices.</p> | <p>3.3 Develop and implement district wide practices for supporting students' social/emotional needs and behavioral health.</p> | <p>4.3 Increase the number of active, ongoing partnerships with local community, businesses, and organizations.</p> | <p>5.3 Enhance accessibility of instructional technology and devices for teachers and students.</p> |
| | | <p>3.4 Develop district wide attendance practices. Include both a response to and a system of support and interventions to address the root cause of problematic attendance patterns. *</p> | <p>4.4 Explore the feasibility and implementation of before and after school programming.*</p> | <p>5.4 Provide ongoing formal and informal technology professional development that focuses on technology integration, technology literacy, and 21st Century learning skills.</p> |

Nissitissit Middle School Impact 2017-2018

Goal 1 Objectives:

- Nissitissit School Teacher Leaders and data leadership teams will analyze student learning data and achievement. Using protocols and action plans, we will share the information with the staff and collaborate on student achievement with our members of Professional Learning Communities (PLC). Through the sharing of and experimentation with tasks that promote higher level thinking, and the use of research-based instructional strategies, we will set the bar high for student learning. This is a continuation of on-going work.
- All classes will utilize common assessments both as a way of assessing student progress, and as a tool for curriculum revision and refining instructional practice.

Goal 2 Objectives:

- We will increase opportunities both during the school day and after school for students to apply math and science skills and concepts in authentic and meaningful ways.

Goal 3 Objectives:

- The numbers of students with social emotional issues continues to grow. These issues can be long or short term, but have a significant impact on a student's ability to be successful in school. Nissitissit will continue to utilize our full time social worker/mental health professional to work with students, families and teachers in addressing these needs. This was implemented last year and has made a significant impact.
- The Administration and Student Support staff will employ strategies that will result in improved student attendance, especially for those students who are at high risk. These strategies will include closely monitoring attendance, frequent parent communication and regular meetings with the Nissitissit Leadership team and the District Resource Officer. A team approach will be utilized including the Social Worker, School Counselor, Administration, School Resource Officer, parents and teachers.
- We will continue to explore the potential of using a therapy dog in the school setting to improve student attendance, emotional regulation and student learning, which is all substantiated in research.

Goal 4 Objectives:

- Improve community relations by keeping our stakeholders informed of school information, attending the Pepperell Business Association Breakfasts, invite stakeholders into school events (STEAM Day, performing arts), participating in Arts in Lobby at North Middlesex Bank and the Lawrence Library.
- Increase family communication by collecting information to establish additional and preferred methods of communication.

Goal 5 Objectives:

- Continue to expand our Makerspace program. This will allow students to use technology in conjunction with project based learning to improve the following skills: problem solving, idea prototyping, engineering, program design, and collaborative work skills. To help alleviate expenses associated with this endeavor, we are seeking out grant opportunities and community support.
- Plan and implement two school wide STEAM Days with a focus on areas of science that tend to be more abstract and difficult to conceptualize.
- Staff will attend professional development opportunities that focus on integrating 21st Century Skills and technology into the classroom.

