



Superintendent of Schools - Justin Gardner

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#### Board of Education

Phyllis Klein, *President*  
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Craig Jackson  
Kasey Young  
Brandy Pierce Nolette, *District Clerk*

## Derrick A. Hopkins

Grade 5 ELA | Grades 4-6 Science | Grade 6 ELA AIS | Grades P-12 Theatre

### 6.1 Uphold professional standards of practice and policy as related to students' rights and teachers' responsibilities.

- Group emails to parents to communicate classroom expectations, announcements, and homework expectations.
- Private emails and phone calls to parents to discuss behavior concerns and to communicate improvements in grades and behaviors.
- In communications with parents, management strategies and lesson presentations change to meet the needs of the class and the needs of individual student.
- Lessons in safe use of Google Classroom and corresponding programs.

### 6.2 Engage and collaborate with colleagues and the community to develop and sustain a common culture that supports high expectations for student learning.

- Actively collaborating and communicating with the 4-6 teachers and special education teachers to plan cohesive curriculum.
- Further communication with support staff and administration for classroom activities.
- Extended communication with all school personnel for theatre related projects.
- Community press releases sent for theatre productions.

### 6.3 Communicate and collaborate with families, guardians, and caregivers to enhance student development and success.

- Email, classroom phone, and personal phone number including text messaging has been distributed to parents for open communication if an area of concern arises. Some parents communicate via Facebook messenger as well.

### 6.4 Manage and perform non-instructional duties in accordance with school district guidelines or other applicable expectations.

- Followed per teacher contract.

### 6.5 Understand and comply with relevant laws and policies as related to student's rights and teachers' responsibilities.

- All 504 and IEPs followed per the document attached to SchoolTool.
- Comply with guidelines established by the District in the Teacher Handbook.



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### 7.1 Reflect on their practice to improve instructional effectiveness and guide professional growth

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- Expansion of 5<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum and reading resources
  - ✓ Due to identified reading needs, additional resources were created around the following books:
    - Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief
    - Walk Two Moons
    - Harry Potter and the Lightning Thief
    - Island of the Blue Dolphins
- Continuation of 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading program
  - ✓ Continuation of cursive writing program
  - ✓ Addition of more rigorous questions that align with State standards
  - ✓ Addition of grammar skills added
  - ✓ More project based writing added into the curriculum
  - ✓ Reimplementation of short story reading and comprehension questions
    - Short bursts of reading with rigorous questioning
- AIS implementation
  - ✓ ELA AIS Push-in / Pull-out for 6<sup>th</sup> graders
    - Researched, learned, and implemented the 6<sup>th</sup> grade ELA modules
    - Assisted all struggling learners regardless of their AIS status
    - Assisted with primarily with writing, but also fundamental reading and phonics skills
- Further expansion and alignment of the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade science curriculum
  - ✓ Emphasis on reading and analyzing scientific articles in all grades (topic dependent)
  - ✓ Continued integration of scientific experiments, demonstrations, videos, and interactive software / animation
- Integration of fundamentals of theatre into the ELA curriculum
  - ✓ Continued emphasis in the curriculum on character development in discussion and oral expression
  - ✓ Continued to integrate aspects of the Stanislavski method of acting integrated into the ELA curriculum
- Administrator for i-Ready online assessment tool (3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA and Math)
  - ✓ Online tool measures student growth and instructional effectiveness
  - ✓ Identifies strengths and weaknesses in reading and math concepts to influence classroom instruction and AIS services
  - ✓ Assigned tests for students
  - ✓ Added and deleted students and teachers with their classes into the program
  - ✓ Reset passwords for students and teachers and assisted teachers with generating and printing student reports



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### 7.2 Set goals for and engage in ongoing professional development needed to continuously improve teaching competencies

- Complete ELA overhaul needed
  - ✓ Initial work started at the beginning of the year identifying weaknesses in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade ELA curriculum
  - ✓ Weaknesses include:
    - Rigorous writing questions
      - Focus on Author's Structure
    - Comprehensive multiple choice questions needed
    - Paired novels ideal for 6<sup>th</sup> grade preparedness
    - Essay preparedness
  - ✓ Ongoing curriculum improvement:
    - Exploration and idea driven curriculum planning around:
      - Walk Two Moons
        - Ideal for symbolism and more difficult figurative language
      - Pairing *Island of the Blue Dolphins* with *The Cay*
        - Themes of survival and understanding others
      - Pairing *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* with *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*
        - Connecting two unlikely heroes
        - Nonfiction implementation especially with the Greek gods and goddesses
        - Many literary devices
  - ✓ Need for more project writing and addition of "soft skill" writing needed
    - Example: friendly letter writing
  - ✓ Tackling these goals has been the highest of priorities as I begin the process of a complete overhaul with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum

### 7.3 Communicate and collaborate with students, colleagues, other professionals, and the community to improve practice

- Website created to enhance communication and provide parents and students with classroom related materials
- Weekly calendar sent home outlining content and skills to be covered in the week to come; phone and email communication logs
- Novel calendars sent home outlining the reading homework and in-class goals per novel
- Created personal classroom rules, guidelines, and expectations; communicated to parents
- Communication with Tara Valachovic as AIS Math provider for 6<sup>th</sup> grade ELA
- Extensive dialogue and planning with Tara Valachovic, Laura Brigge, Andrew Lee, and Theresa Moss coordinating Math, ELA, AIS, and Special Education services for 4-6 grade students
- Communication with Jennifer Moore and Reagan Monarch on integrating the arts and elevating the arts through collaboration and performance

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### 7.4 Remain current in their knowledge of content and pedagogy by utilizing professional resources

- Daily perusal of published articles to increase current knowledge of scientific content and to share as topics arise in the news
- Further study of ELA standards and exams
  - ✓ Identified strengths and weaknesses of each
  - ✓ Reshaping the 2019-20 school-year ELA program to meet the needs of the students with a curriculum that is more in line with their needs and the
- Continued development of the Willsboro Drama Club and the theatrical education of Willsboro students outside of the normal school day
  - ✓ Completed *The Wizard of Oz*: Grades P-12
    - theatrical fly and character development
    - integration of art and music
    - fundamentals of dance
  - ✓ Completed *A Few Good Men*: Grades 7-12
    - military history and protocol
    - more in-depth character study through the Stanislavski method of acting
      - Build Your Character, Script Analysis, Heart of the Play, Your Role in the Play
    - heightened character connection and building of suspense through emotional connection and vulnerability