

Marion Middle School

School Improvement Plan

2009-2010

PROFILE OF STUDENTS, SCHOOL, AND COMMUNITY

Marion Middle School is located in Marion, VA, the county seat of Smyth County. The school serves students beyond the boundaries of the town. We have seen a slight decline in student enrollment over the last few years; this has been a result of economic downturns, business closures, and worker lay-offs. Additionally, an estimated thirteen percent of Smyth County residents have an income of less than \$10,000 annually; and the county has a median household income \$22,294 less than the state average.

Marion Middle School opened as a high school in the fall of 1939. When Marion Senior High School was established in 1961, this building became Marion Junior High School. In 1986 Smyth County changed its organizational arrangement for middle-level education, and Marion Junior High became known as Marion Middle School.

In the 1997-1998 school year, Marion Middle School opened a new addition housing a cafeteria, library, and eight classrooms. The sixth graders from Marion Intermediate School and Atkins Elementary School, along with their teachers, joined Marion Middle School. The building is currently comprised of an office complex, guidance mezzanine, cafeteria, auditorium (with a choral/band suite), library, gymnasium (with locker rooms), four computer labs, 24 instructional classrooms, two exploratory classrooms, four smaller classrooms for special education, and an adjacent structure which houses the agriculture and technology classrooms.

Marion Middle School has a current student enrollment of 507 students; 6th Grade has 174 students, 7th Grade has 156 students, and 8th Grade has 177 students. Approximately sixty percent of our students receive free and reduced price meals. We are proud of our excellent work ethic, and we stress the importance of good attendance with both students and faculty. "Best" practices are constantly utilized and sought out by staff members. The result of this hard work shows through in our test scores, the atmosphere of our school, and the success of our students.

Marion Middle School recognizes the need for technologically advanced individuals entering the workforce; therefore, our teachers incorporate technology into instruction at every opportunity. We are currently fully accredited by the Virginia Department of Education and have met adequate yearly progress as established for the NCLB initiative from the federal government; this was based on the 2008-2009 SOL test results. Instructional plans are in place to ensure continued success.

Marion Middle School

Our Vision

Marion Middle School will be a learning community that will:

- Promote intellectual excellence.
- Develop lifelong learners.
- Encourage open communication and cooperation.
- Know the importance of passions, strengths, and challenges.
- Think creatively.
- Identify and solve complex and meaningful problems.
- Respect and celebrate diversity and all individuals.
- Assist students in future goal planning.

Our Mission

The mission of Marion Middle School is to provide a safe, positive, and supportive environment in which students will be engaged and challenged by educational opportunities and character building experiences.

Our Shared Beliefs

- We lay the foundation for the students' future by providing a good education.
- Each child has unique strengths, challenges, and needs.
- Differentiated instruction should be utilized according to each student's ability to learn.
- Students need to be actively engaged in their education.
- We believe that all students should be accountable for their education and should be held to a set of high expectations.
- Support and encouragement will be given to students as they make goals to advance to high school and beyond.
- All students can learn to become successful adults.
- Good attendance is imperative and will be encouraged.
- A pleasant atmosphere for the students will be nurtured while providing a setting for continual learning.
- Our students will develop the skills to become productive, respectful citizens.
- All stakeholders share the responsibility for advancing the school's mission.

GOAL 1

To improve Standards of Learning reading test scores for each grade level and identified subgroups, with a goal for improvement of scores as identified in the chart below. In addition, we plan to have 50% of our students achieve a proficiency level in the advanced score range. We plan to accomplish this by the spring of 2010.

CURRENT STATUS

MMS AYP Reading Data and Target Goals

English	Current Status (SY 2008-2009 Scores)	Goal (SY 2009-2010)
6 th Grade	84%	89%
7 th Grade	87%	92%
8 th Grade	88%	93%
All Students	87%	92%
Disadvantaged Students	82%	87%
Students with Disabilities	75%	85%
Advanced	41%	50%

STRATEGIES

- Continue to use curriculum maps
- Generate benchmark assessments at the 2nd, 4th, and 5th 6 weeks time periods and disaggregate all of the relevant data that is generated for all scored subgroups. A combination of the RAI Assessment, teacher made assessments, and SOL released test assessments will be utilized. This information will be used to target remediation.
- Evaluate all data from current and prior testing scores to identify areas of concern, track growth, and establish areas for improvement throughout the school year
- Utilize small group instruction for remediation, intervention, and enrichment services
- Monitor the performance of students who receive intervention services
- Utilize the *Wilson Reading Program* for those students in need of more intensive reading remediation
- Utilize professional development opportunities for teacher growth and to establish new insight. School-wide we will focus on technology, specifically WIKI Spaces; individually teachers will attend professional development opportunities as appropriate.
- Utilize Interactive Achievement to develop proficiency in the students' on-line testing abilities.
- Develop more of a focus on individualized remediation for disadvantaged students and students with disabilities
- Reinforce literacy skills within content area instruction
- Teachers will utilize the Lexile Framework in order to determine appropriate reading material.
- A cross-curricular approach to reading will be utilized. For example, reading will be worked into mathematics classes utilizing word problems.
- Teachers will focus on teaching summarization while reading.
- Teachers will be encouraged to utilize teaching strategies and instructional practices in line with Marzano's ideals.
- Enhance parent communication and gain more support from home through the utilization of teachers updating websites weekly.

GOAL 2

To improve Standards of Learning mathematics test scores for each grade level and identified subgroups, with a goal for improvement of scores as identified in the chart below. In addition, we plan to have 59% of our students achieving in the advanced proficiency level. We plan to accomplish this by the spring of 2010.

CURRENT STATUS

MMS AYP Mathematics Data and Target Goals

Mathematics	Current Status (SY 2008-2009 Scores)	Goal (SY 2009-2010)
6 th Grade	71%	83%
7 th Grade	84%	89%
8 th Grade	89%	94%
Algebra 1	100%	100%
Geometry	100%	100%
All Students	84%	89%
Disadvantaged Students	81%	86%
Students with Disabilities	69%	83%
Advanced	54%	59%

STRATEGIES

- Continue to use curriculum maps
- Generate benchmark assessments at the 2nd, 4th, and 5th 6 weeks time periods and disaggregate all of the relevant data that is generated for all scored subgroups, and utilize this information to target remediation
- Evaluate all data from current and prior testing scores to identify areas of concern, track growth, and establish areas for improvement throughout the school year
- Utilize small group instruction for remediation, intervention, and enrichment services
- Utilize professional development opportunities for teacher growth and to establish new insight. School-wide we will focus on technology, specifically WIKI Spaces; individually teachers will attend professional development opportunities as appropriate.
- Utilize Interactive Achievement to develop proficiency in the students' on-line testing abilities.
- Develop more of a focus on individualized remediation for disadvantaged students and students with disabilities
- Evaluate instructional techniques to find the best way to assist students in the application of mathematics concepts and the growth of higher order skills
- Conduct instruction in math vocabulary and utilize open-ended problems to refine higher order thinking skills and critical thinking skills
- Reinforce mathematics skills daily by utilizing individual and group practice exercises
- Teachers will utilize a "task analysis" approach as appropriate.
- Mathematics teachers will create hands-on lessons as much as possible.
- Mathematics teachers will use manipulatives as much as possible.
- Algebra 1 students will be taught how to use the graphing calculator.
- Teachers will be encouraged to utilize teaching strategies and instructional practices in line with Marzano's ideals.
- Enhance parent communication and gain more support from home through the utilization of teachers updating websites weekly.

GOAL 3

To improve Standards of Learning writing test scores at the grade level measured and in identified subgroups, with a goal for improvement of scores as identified in the chart below. We plan to accomplish this by the spring of 2010.

CURRENT STATUS

MMS AYP Writing Data and Target Goals

Writing	Current Status (SY 2008-2009 Scores)	Goal (SY 2009-2010)
8 th Grade (All Students)	81%	86%
Disadvantaged Students	74%	85%
Students with Disabilities	50%	85%

STRATEGIES

- Continue to use curriculum maps
- Continue to implement the *6+ 1 Traits of Great Writing* in language arts and all other content area classes
- Utilize the on-line writing assessment tool *Criterion* for seventh and eighth grade students on a more frequent basis
- Generate benchmark assessments at the 2nd, 4th, and 5th 6 weeks time periods and disaggregate all of the relevant data that is generated for all scored subgroups, and utilize this information to target remediation
- Evaluate all data from current and prior testing scores to identify areas of concern, track growth, and establish areas for improvement throughout the school year
- Utilize small group instruction for remediation, intervention, and enrichment opportunities
- Monitor the performance of students that receive intervention opportunities
- Utilize professional development opportunities for teacher growth and to establish new insight. School-wide we will focus on technology, specifically WIKI Spaces; individually teachers will attend professional development opportunities as appropriate.
- Develop more of a focus on individualized remediation for disadvantaged students and students with disabilities
- Reinforce writing across the curriculum within content area instruction
- Incorporate more grammar skills into writing instruction to better evaluate writing skills
- Utilize graphic organizers
- Familiarize students with SOL Writing Test scoring procedures by utilizing the Pearson Perspective Understanding Scoring materials.
- Students will evaluate/assess other writing samples to gain a greater understanding of both the writing and scoring process.
- Teachers will be encouraged to utilize teaching strategies and instructional practices in line with Marzano's ideals.
- Enhance parent communication and gain more support from home through the utilization of teachers updating websites weekly.