

# *Northwood High School*



## **School Improvement Plan 2007 – 2008**

The Mission of Northwood High School is to prepare every student for a successful future.

## Profile of Students, School and Community

Northwood High School was established in 1987 as a result of the consolidation of Rich Valley and R. B. Worthy High School. Rich Valley High School was located fifteen miles east of Saltville in a rural community with many valleys rich in the heritage of farming. R. B. Worthy High School was located in downtown Saltville, Virginia. Saltville grew into an industrial town because of its natural resources of salt and gypsum rock.

Consolidation was deemed necessary because of decreased enrollment of both schools. The sixth, seventh, and eighth grades at Saltville Elementary and R. B. Worthy High were transferred to the Rich Valley High building, which became a middle school. The ninth through twelfth grades at Rich Valley were transferred to the R. B. Worthy High School building. The school became Northwood High School, adopted "Panthers" as its nickname, and chose navy blue and silver as its colors.

The transition was incredibly smooth and resulted in an immediate increase in both academic and athletic offerings at the school. In order to meet the Standards of Learning mandates and to offer the students more classes, 4 X 4 block scheduling was adopted.

In recent years changes have been made to enhance the physical environment of the school. The auditorium, kitchen and cafeteria have been renovated. New windows were installed through out the school and the library was remodeled and expanded. The athletic programs and facilities have been updated. The existing gymnasium and locker and team rooms were renovated. A field house was added to the west end of the existing football stadium. In 1997, a new 18,000 square foot, state-of-the-art gymnasium was constructed to accommodate athletics and other school activities.

Students attending Northwood High School come from as far away as the Bland and Tazewell County lines to the north and Washington County to the west. They reach into Smyth County to the Midway area. The surrounding area is somewhat stable in its population. There is a limited number of manufacturing jobs and adults often drive out of the area to find work. Future projections based on census information indicate the enrollment will remain stable for a couple of years and then have a slight drop. Area municipal officials have begun a revitalization program for the Saltville area; hopefully this will result in an increase in population and eventually enrollment at Northwood High School.

Studies show that there were no unusual enrollment fluctuations during the 2006 – 07 school year. All withdrawals were the result of families changing residences or students changing custody with their family. During the past year we had 42 students withdraw

with 22 students relocating within the state. Only 2 students left the state to attend another school. Five students moved into another attendance area within the county. Six students enrolled in a non-public school.

At the same time, we enrolled 38 students, 16 for the first time. Eleven students enrolled from within the state and 2 were out-of-state students. Four students had previously gone to school within Smyth County. Five students reenrolled after previously withdrawing.

*In order to achieve our mission statement, Northwood High School will strive to attain the following goals:*

**GOAL #1:** To improve our attendance rate to 94% by the end of the school year, June 2008.

**CURRENT STATUS:**

The attendance percentages have decreased in the past 2 years. Attendance declined from 93% for the school year 2005 – 2006 to 92.3% for the school year 2006 – 2007. We feel this is a result of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade class entering into our school and having a history of non-attendance as a group.

Year	Percentage of Attendance
2005 - 2006	93%
2006 - 2007	92.3%

**STRATEGIES:**

1. Implementation of the new county-wide attendance policy.
2. The faculty will periodically receive excerpts from the book “Improving School Attendance” to assist the administration in encouraging student attendance.
3. “Tracking” those students who are absent will be monitored closely to see if contact is being made with their parents by our attendance personnel.
4. The county attendance policy will be enforced.
5. A compensation program will be established to reward the student body if the attendance goal is reached each week.
6. The administration will continue to use the county attendance officer for reinforcement of the county attendance policy.

**GOAL #2:** To improve student achievement in English to 90% as measured by the SOL tests by the spring of 2008.

**CURRENT STATUS:**

The English SOL test scores were 86.3% for the 2006 – 2007 school year which were higher than the past year (76%.)

Year	English SOL Test Percentages
2005 - 2006	76%
2006 - 2007	86.3%

**STRATEGIES:**

1. To continue using the Differentiated Instruction techniques that proved successful during the past school year.
2. Writing across the curriculum will once again be stressed in every classroom.
3. Implement the techniques stressed in our Professional Development workshop by Dr. Bobbie Jo Cutlip from the book “Breaking Ranks II.”
4. Using strategies provided in our Professional Development workshop by Dr. Cutlip, “Building Relationships with Students and Teacher Efficacy.”
5. Remediation for those students who are “targeted” as potential risks to fail the SOL test.
6. Curriculum Mapping notebooks were issued to each teacher to ensure cohesion in the subject area across the county.

**GOAL #3:** To improve student achievement in Math to 85% as measured by the SOL tests by the spring of 2008.

**CURRENT STATUS:**

The Math SOL test scores were 82.48% for the 2006 – 2007 school year which was higher than the past year (80%).

Year	Math SOL Test Percentages
2005 – 2006	80%
2006 - 2007	82.48%

**STRATEGIES:**

1. To continue using Differentiated Instruction techniques that proved successful during the past school year.
2. Remediation sessions will continue for students termed “high-risk” and may fail the SOL tests.
3. Continue using strategies from Dr. Cutlip’s professional development workshops in order for a teacher to connect with a student.
4. Use disaggregation of data to target areas in need of improvement.
5. Curriculum Mapping notebooks to be distributed to each teacher to ensure cohesion in the subject area across the county.

**GOAL #4:** To improve student achievement for students with disabilities in writing to 70% as measured by the SOL tests by the spring 2008.

**CURRENT STATUS:**

The writing scores of students with disabilities were 63.63% for the year 2006 – 2007. This was a remarkable increase from the year 2005 -2006 when the test scores were 15%.

Year	Writing Test Score Percentages
2005 – 2006	15%
2006 - 2007	63.63%

**STRATEGIES:**

1. To continue emphasizing writing across the curriculum instituted in the school year 2006 -2007.
2. Have Special Education teachers continue to provide additional aid to those students having difficulty in writing assignments.
3. To incorporate the strategies provided by Dr. Cutlip in her professional development workshops.
4. Continue using Remediation sessions for those students at risk of failing their writing SOL tests.