

Principal's Annual Summary for the 2018-2019 School Year Park Elementary School

During the 2019-20 schoolyear at Park Elementary we celebrate our work and accomplishments from 2018-19 while continuing to focus on increasing the growth around Indicators 1, 5, 6, and 10. (1- Increase the percentage of students, families, staff, and partners who report feeling like a valuable member of the school or school community, 5 - Increase the percentage of students who read on or above grade level by the end of second grade, 6 – Increase the percentage of students in grades 3-8 who meet or exceed expectations on standardized reading, language arts, and mathematics assessments, and 10 – Increase the percentage of students attending school on a daily basis.) We remain devoted to our students and families and are dedicated to continuing our journey of growth and meeting the needs of our community.

At Park we understand that we must first “reach” students before we can “teach”. Until all students and their families feel valued and students regularly attend school, we cannot accomplish more academic goals. Consequently, in addition to sending letters and making phone calls, we have encouraged attendance through daily check-in, mentoring, dress-up days for students and a carnival for our families. In addition, students in each classroom participate in daily Community Circles and use of mood meters to give students a chance to tell us how they are feeling. Mood meters also allow teachers to send students to the appropriate adult in the building to discuss their feelings before negative behaviors begin.

Despite numerous incentives, activities, conversations and meetings with parents, our attendance improved only slightly last year. We use information from sources such as Attendance Works to share with students and parents about the importance of good attendance and the connection to academic achievement. In order demonstrate the value we have for our school families we strive to provide opportunities to meet their needs. In partnership within our school and community, we work to support students and families through their personal challenges. A social worker in the building and an increased presence of our school psychologist, collaboration with Villa Maria, our in school food bank, an artist-in-residence, and the grants that provide for after school clubs are a few of the means we are able to make available for our students. We remain grateful for the wonderful community partners who have joined with us in establishing these indispensable resources. Without these, some would not be able to overcome their struggles and would not be able to come to school to learn.

Our staff dedicates time every day toward developing readers and increasing test taking skills for success on assessments. From using Foundations, planning collaboratively, and increasing on-demand writing prompts, to recognizing students who know their sight words with bracelets and green parties – we continue to challenge our students and acknowledge them for their achievement and successes.

For the 2019 - 20 schoolyear, Park Elementary remains committed to valuing our stakeholders – each of them – and having all of our students come to school regularly so that they have the opportunity to benefit from the instruction their teachers are eager to share with them. While we have seen some progress, we realize that in order to reach our goals of reading on grade level and improving assessment scores, we must stay the course and continue our work. We know that our dedication and commitment to our community will result in more of our Park students eager to come and learn and proud of their work and achievements as stronger readers and scholars.

Sandra Blondell
Principal
Park Elementary School