

The vision of Collinsville Middle School (CMS) is to create a positive and safe learning environment.

The meaning of this vision statement remains a source of ongoing reflection for the faculty and staff. At the core of this statement is the central goal of student empowerment to achieve new heights in learning by advancing in the knowledge of academic concepts, in the refinement of social skills, and in the development of professional interests.

The fulfillment of the CMS vision remains an attainable and ever-changing goal. Its fulfillment occurs every time a student learns, but the vision constantly shifts and becomes more focused as students reach higher levels of mastery. At CMS, the team concept is used to achieve these levels of mastery. The team concept involves:

- The division of the enrollment of each grade level into smaller “grade-level groups” called teams;
- Each team is comprised of one teacher from each department;
- Each student is assigned to one grade-level team;
- Team-teachers collaborate to identify the best approaches to present lessons and concepts to students;
- Team-teachers collaborate to identify problem areas that students encounter and they work to develop/enact a solution(s);
- Team-teachers plan team activities for students that will heighten their academic exposure;
- Students develop positive relationships with their pool of team-teachers and those students who are a part of their team.

The team concept has resulted in numerous areas of success and it has enabled collaboration to identify areas of planned improvement. These areas serve as points of reference in our pursuit to secure elevated ISAT scores and constant learning for all students. These areas are as follows:

Areas of Success:

- School-wide implementation of a middle school philosophy;
- Improvement growth in ISAT scores in the areas of Mathematics and Reading;
- Expansion of a school Reading curriculum to address subgroup deficiencies on the ISAT;
- Incorporation of Response to Intervention plans into the school Reading curriculum;
- Development of Response to Intervention plans to address the discipline of Mathematics;
- Technology support for all academic instruction;
- Reinforcement of the overall curriculum using technology located in four computer labs, on mobile computer labs, and with updated support-software;
- Increase in parental involvement through our Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA);
- Adoption and implementation of the “CMS Volunteer Initiative” introducing volunteers into the school during the school day;

- Incorporation of a state enrichment program (independent of the district) to provide after-school services such as tutoring and mentorships of students within a targeted ISAT subgroup;
- Inclusion of every phase of the PLAN-Student Assistance Team activities onto each individual team;
- Expansion of the Character Education Program designed to reinforce positive choices made by students while promoting positive contributions between the student population and the community;
- Maintaining lines of communication with parents through mediums such as monthly newsletters, School Reach phone messages, team contacts, and the school website.

Areas of Planned Improvement:

- Continued development and assessment of our school-wide reading curriculum to determine if it is “content-area-specific” across all curricular areas while meeting the learning needs of students;
- Continued emphasis will be placed on curriculum development, on updating initiatives to reflect the changing needs of our students, and on preparation that yields student success on the ISAT;
- Implementation of Response to Intervention plans to address the discipline of Mathematics;
- Refinement of our advisory program.

Throughout the school year, the CMS faculty and staff will work collectively to uphold the tenets of our vision statement. Through acts such as reviewing/modifying reading techniques every semester, expanding Character Education activities to encompass teams, and using software to assess student-ISAT problem areas; CMS maintains its commitment to student preparation for the ISAT and for the demands of the future.