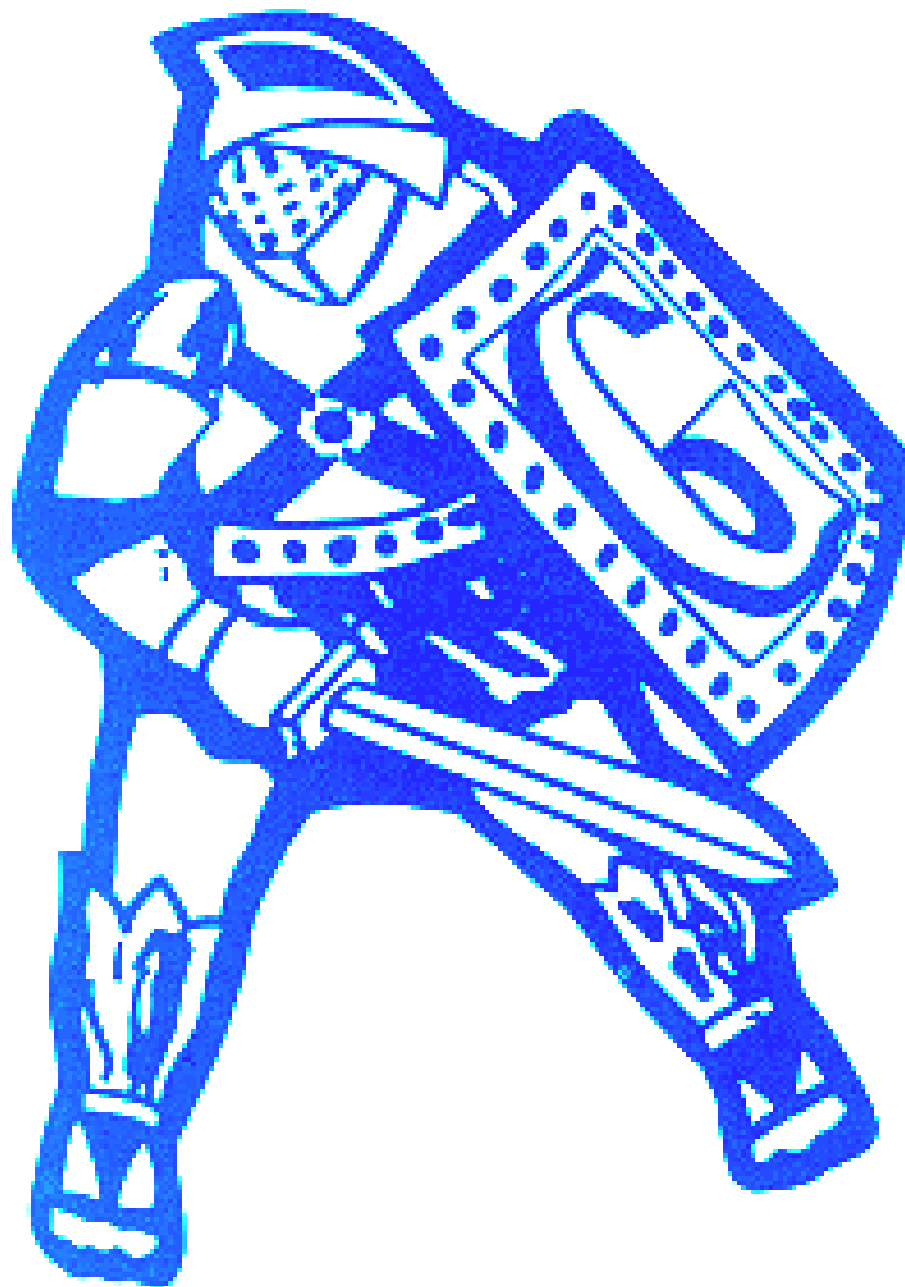


MICHAEL GRIMMER MIDDLE SCHOOL



A LAKE CENTRAL SCHOOL CORPORATION SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

PREPARED DURING THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

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A copy of this document can be found on the [Grimmer Middle School](#) website.

2024-25 School Improvement Team

Name	Position	Grade Levels
W. Ryan Bounds	Principal	5-8
Mario Castaneda	Assistant Principal	5-8
Letitia Gustas	ELA / Dept Chair	6
Shannon Stanley	ELA	8
Sarah Poncin	Math	7
Greg Ashby	Math/Dept Chair	8
Sarah Roth	Social Studies/Dept Chair	7 & 8
Louis Greanias	Social Studies	6 & 7
Nick Meyer	Science/Dept Chair	7
Laura Mullaney	Science	6
Susan Thompson	5th Grade Teacher	5 (ELA & Social Studies)
Kevin Lewis	Band / Music Teacher	5-8
Kyle Stephens	Reading RTI	5-8

The School Improvement Plan is annually reviewed.

MISSION STATEMENT

In partnership with family and community and through an educational system driven by clearly defined learner outcomes, Grimmer students will learn skills, values, and knowledge which empower them to be contributing, responsible citizens confidently directing their own lives and adapting to rapid change in an increasingly complex world.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL

Grimmer Middle School is located in Schererville, Indiana. We are one of three public middle schools in the Lake Central School Corporation. In January 2008, the school's configuration changed from sixth through eighth grades to fifth through eighth. Our school corporation serves the west central section of Lake County, Indiana, with students from Schererville, Griffith, St. John, and St. John Township attending Grimmer Middle School.

Grimmer Middle School was opened in 1974. Each classroom is equipped with a phone, allowing teachers easy access to communication lines with parents and voice mailboxes for each teacher, which allows parents to initiate that communication as well. Skyward, a web-based student management program, has been implemented by all teachers. Canvas, a web-based communication tool, is used by all teachers and is available to all students and parents. Teachers and families have the ability to conduct school synchronously from home if necessary. Grimmer Middle School utilizes Parent Square as a tool for staff to communicate with families. Additionally, each classroom has either a SmartBoard, LCD projector, or SmartTV. Some classrooms are also equipped with document cameras and responders. Currently, Grimmer shows an enrollment of 815 students for the 2024-2025 school year.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMUNITY

Schererville, Indiana, is located in Northwest Indiana, approximately forty miles southeast of Chicago, Illinois. Numerous cultural and recreational facilities are available within a short driving distance. The Town of Schererville has a population of approximately 29,000. Lake Central School Corporation has a diverse population. The Town of Schererville has seen strong growth in the retail and service industries. Business and industry have traditionally been very supportive of the schools.

The Lake Central Education Foundation, supported and funded by local businesses and community members, offers grant opportunities for innovative teaching units. Grimmer teachers seek and receive grants from this foundation, expanding student learning opportunities and connecting with the community in a positive method.

Higher education opportunities exist locally. They include regional campuses of Calumet College, Indiana University, Indiana Vocational University, and Purdue University. Representatives from these institutions consistently support career exploration and teacher education programs.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Michael Grimmer Middle School strives constantly to give students broad experiences in a variety of settings. During the school day, students at each grade level are scheduled into a mix of classes that challenge them academically and expand their horizons.

Every student, grades six through eight, have a daily class (forty-seven minutes) of math, science, and social studies and ninety minutes of language arts. All fifth grade students have a daily class (ninety-four minutes) of language arts and math, and a daily class (forty-seven minutes) of science and social studies.

Grimmer Middle School houses a strong music department. Sixth through eighth grade students may choose to participate daily in choir or band. Those who do not have a rotation of classes during the year that includes art and technology education. All sixth through eighth grade students additionally have classes in physical education, health, and computers; fifth grade students have classes in art, music, gym, and computers.

In an effort to meet the needs of the changing socio economics of the school population, Grimmer has implemented comprehensive RtI and ELL programs. Students are baseline tested to determine eligibility and need. Interventions are then put in place to meet the students' individual needs.

Those students who qualify for academic assistance through their Individualized Education Plan may, instead of one of the exploratory rotations, have a daily resource class. This gives them the opportunity to receive individualized assistance in achieving their goals.

Students may also choose to participate in a number of co- and extracurricular activities. These are designed to give the students opportunities to explore their talents in academic, athletic, and social arenas, while building relationships with their peers and adults. New activities, especially those that might have participation from those students not already involved, are constantly being explored and offered.

DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF CURRICULUM/STANDARDS

The staff at Michael Grimmer Middle School has continuously examined and revised the curriculum. They have collaborated with counterparts at the two other middle schools in the corporation and with teachers in the feeder elementary schools and the high school. Horizontal and vertical articulation is the focus for advancing student achievement.

Each department chairperson has a copy of his or her own department's middle-level academic state standards. Department chairs are in place for language arts (English and literature), math, science, and social studies. The corporation has led various departments in evaluating state standards and articulating those standards along with instructional strategies to provide a continuum of instruction throughout all grade levels. Part of this process includes department chairs meeting regularly with their department members to assure that expectations of all students are clear. Department heads are the communication liaisons between the administration and the faculty.

All departments continuously revisit their curricula. This allows for the curricula to be working documents, changing with the needs of students as new best practices occur. This is a collaborative effort with teachers and administrators across all three middle schools in Lake Central.

TITLES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS TO BE USED IN ADDITION TO THE ILEARN

Lake Central School Corporation has a tradition of academic excellence. Proof that the needs of the community have been met by the schools continues to be offered using such assessments as:

1. iREADY – A math and language arts diagnostic test is taken by all students in grade five, three times a year. The results of these tests determine whether or not students need additional skill work prior to the ILEARN test in the spring. In addition, students are given differentiated lessons based on their leveled performance.
2. Computer-Based System – Fifth grade students are screened using iReady to target for remediation. This program was implemented in the fall of 2013. All students who are below standard and many requiring intervention services utilize these programs.
3. ILearn checkpoints-Lake Central is participating in the pilot for the ILearn checkpoints this year.
4. ALEKS- ALEKS is a web based math supplemental program. All math 6th-8th students begin the year with a knowledge check. ALEKS then differentiates to each student and creates a knowledge mastery path.
5. CFAs-Based on the learning targets provided by the state, Lake Central has created Common Formative Assessments for grades 5-8 in both language arts and math. These assessments will be given to students each quarter and the data will be analyzed.

SUMMARY OF DATA

5th Grade 2023 v 2024 Comparison for ILEARN

ELA 2023 Proficiency: 46%	ELA 2024 Proficiency: 57%
Math 2023 Proficiency: 52%	Math 2024 Proficiency: 51%

5th Grade District Comparison

School	Subject	Proficient	State Average		Free / Reduced Lunch
Grimmer	ELA	57 %	40%	+17%	28 %
Clark	ELA	47%	40%	+7%	21%
Kahler	ELA	48%	40%	+8%	26%
Grimmer	Math	51%	41%	+10%	28%
Clark	Math	51%	41%	+10%	21%
Kahler	Math	59%	41%	+18%	26%

6th Grade 2023 v 2024 Comparison for ILEARN

ELA 2023 Proficiency: 54%	ELA 2024 Proficiency: 57%
Math 2023 Proficiency: 49%	Math 2024 Proficiency: 45%

6th Grade District Comparison

School	Subject	Proficient	State Average	+/-	Free / Reduced Lunch
Grimmer	ELA	57%	41%	+16%	28%
Clark	ELA	58%	41%	+17%	21%
Kahler	ELA	45%	41%	+4%	26%
Grimmer	Math	45%	38%	+7%	28%
Clark	Math	45%	38%	+7%	21%
Kahler	Math	44%	38%	+6%	26%

7th Grade 2022 v 2023 Comparison for ILEARN	
ELA 2023 Proficiency: 48%	ELA 2024 Proficiency: 60%
Math 2023 Proficiency: 36%	Math 2024 Proficiency: 43%

7th Grade District Comparison					
School	Subject	Proficient	State Average	+/-	Free / Reduced Lunch
Grimmer	ELA	60%	42%	+18%	28%
Clark	ELA	53%	42%	+11%	21%
Kahler	ELA	45%	42%	+3%	26%
Grimmer	Math	43%	34%	+9%	28%
Clark	Math	31%	34%	-1%	21%
Kahler	Math	34%	34%	=	26%

8th Grade 2021 v 2022 Comparison for ILEARN	
ELA 2023 Proficiency: 55%	ELA Proficiency 2024: 54%
Math 2023 Proficiency: 36%	Math Proficiency 2024: 30%

8th Grade					
School	Subject	Proficient	State Average	+/-	Free / Reduced Lunch
Grimmer	ELA	54%	43%	+11%	28%
Clark	ELA	67%	43%	+24%	21%
Kahler	ELA	48%	43%	+5%	26%
Grimmer	Math	30%	31%	-1%	28%
Clark	Math	41%	31%	+10	21%
Kahler	Math	34%	31%	+3%	26%

GOALS & STRATEGIES

Goal 1 is to improve Math performance in all grade levels:

- Grimmer collectively strives to perform well above the state average.
- Grimmer staff celebrates student growth.

One strategy is maintaining the current curriculum with fidelity:

- Maintain vertical alignment
 - McGraw Hill Reveal Math
 - Conceptual Learning done through a variety of activities
- Curriculum development is ongoing during the school year
 - Day-to-day pacing guides chunked out by quarters
 - Revisited and modified annually in grade level PLCs

A second strategy is to use the data from the Common Formative Assessments to guide instructional decisions:

- Identify learning targets not mastered by majority of students
- This year all three middle schools are collaborating to organize a system for reteaching that goes beyond Grimmer's current offerings of tutoring and Math Labs.

Goal 2 is to improve Reading performance in all grade levels:

One strategy is to use the data from the Common Formative Assessments to guide instructional decisions:

- Identify learning targets not mastered by majority of students
- This year all three middle schools are collaborating to organize a system for reteaching that goes beyond Grimmer's current offerings of tutoring and in class remediation.
- The curriculum map is fluid while still aligning with the learning targets.

A second strategy is to have students increase their stamina of independent reading:

- Have more independent reading in class (both teacher and student driven)
 - Science - When appropriate Close Reading, science world articles, Smartbook 2.0
 - Math - Word Problems, Conceptual Activities, ALEKS
 - Social Studies - *Junior Scholastic*, *Up Front* and *Scholastic News* (monthly), Textbook, Outside Sources
 - Music - Creating stamina through site reading while performing
 - *Music First*
 - *In-Tune Magazine*
 - LA - Scope, Textbook (Required Non-fiction), Novels, Independent Reading, and Cold Read

A third strategy is Tier 2 and 3 interventions facilitated through Grimmer's Reading Specialist.

Goal 3 is for students to understand the connection among all disciplines in formulating written responses to Document-Based Questions:

- Science- CER (Claim Evidence Reasoning)
- LA - ACES, Yes Ma'am, PQA
- Math - PQA (Put the Question in the Answer)
- Social Studies - PQA and DBQ (type of question, not a way of writing)

One strategy is to collaborate on a monthly basis to monitor progress

- Monthly PLCs
- Common Plan Time
- Curriculum Committees
 - Writing learning targets and CFAs

A second strategy is to provide exposure to common writing acronyms

- Display writing acronyms throughout the building and in classrooms

Goal 4 is to improve attendance and sense of belonging for all students in order to improve achievement in all areas:

One strategy is to provide multiple incentives to engage students:

- Semester reward party
- Friday themed spirit days with music
- End of school year picnic
- Daily principal interactions at lunch (Connect 4) and during passing periods
- Weekly drawing for perfect attendance per grade level (MC)
- Monthly drawing (basket) for perfect attendance for entire school (MC)

A second strategy will be to establish common expectations:

- Common language used to mold behavior
- Establish rapport with parents/guardians
 - All teachers will be supported by principals when working with parents
 - Utilize Grimmer playbook

Goal 5 is to foster social and emotional growth within our students by adhering to Indiana's Student Wellness standards

The strategy is to follow the Student Wellness curriculum in advisory with fidelity

- Sandy Hook Promise curriculum

GRIMMER MIDDLE SCHOOL*Proposed Goals, Strategies, and Measurements of Success***Goal 1 is to improve Math performance in all grade levels:**

Objectives	Strategies	Evaluation
Improve Tier 1 Curriculum	Textbook w/ Pacing Guides Quarterly Learning Targets	ILEARN 2024 Scores and Growth ILEARN Checkpoints 24-25 Common Formative Assessments
Maximize Tier 1 Resources	Place Bubble students in Math Labs (Identify Bubble students)	ILEARN Checkpoints 24-25 Common Formative Assessments Quarterly Grades
Maximize Tier 1 Resources	Utilize Resource Periods & Tutoring Times	Common Formative Assessments Quarterly Grades

Goal 2 is to improve Reading performance in all grade levels:

Objectives	Strategies	Evaluation
Identify learning targets not mastered by majority of students	Monthly PLCs and common plan time	Monitor data from CFAs and ILEARN checkpoints
Improve Tier 1 instruction by examining student assessments.	CFAs have been created to assess the learning targets.	Continue to align questions to learning targets.

Goal 3 is for students to understand the connection among all disciplines in formulating written responses to Document-Based Questions:

Objectives	Strategies	Evaluation
Educate all stakeholders in writing methods across curriculums.	Teachers teach teachers about how they are writing in their departments. Explain to parents in the monthly newsletter.	Teachers can articulate all forms of writing across curriculums such as PQA in LA compared to CRE in Science.
Students can Analyze, Evaluate, and Summarize across content areas.	Teachers created a series of learning targets which will be the skills Grimmer works towards throughout the year.	Quarterly CFAs to measure students level of mastery.

Goal 4 is to improve attendance and sense of belonging for all students in order to improve achievement in all areas:

Objectives	Strategies	Evaluation
Create an inclusive community that rewards students for consistent attendance.	Student Incentives for Positive Behavior and Work Ethic	Actively seek out stakeholder feedback through meetings, surveys, PLCs, and Teacher Teams.
Help students feel a sense of belonging along with the opportunity to find their niche.	Recognition of staff for making a positive impact	Monitor students' participation in activities.
Create strong morale with staff in order to achieve at a higher level.	Student Activities such as dances, cookouts, and themed Fridays	Use Skyward to analyze behavior data.
	Reward kids weekly and monthly for perfect attendance	Monitor attendance for growth.

Goal 5 is to foster social and emotional growth within our students by adhering to Indiana's Student Wellness standards:

Objectives	Strategies	Evaluation
Create a sense of inclusivity for students within the school	Follow the Student Wellness curriculum in advisory	Attendance rates improve while behavioral infractions decrease

INFORMATION REGARDING THE RESULTS OF RISE EVALUATIONS AND OBSERVATIONS

Classroom observations will be conducted during the 2024-2025 school year. Teachers with 0 years of experience and/or new to the corporation will have 2 long and 3 short observations. Teachers rated needs improvement/ineffective will have 2 long and 3 short observations. Teachers with 1 or more years of experience and rated 3.25 or above will have 2 twenty-minute evaluations. Teachers with 1 or more years of experience and rated 3.24 or below will have 1 long and 2 ten-minute short observations. All teachers may have pre- and post- conferences to discuss specific competency areas. Being visible in teachers' classrooms is a priority with our administration and department chairs. Teachers will be rated highly effective, effective, needs improvement, or ineffective based on these observations and school, teacher, and student performance data.

CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE CURRENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING INCLUDING INFORMATION ABOUT CURRICULUM, STRATEGIES, AND STANDARDS

The Lake Central School Corporation created K-12 curriculum standards for each of the academic areas. State proficiencies and local needs were used to develop the corporation standards. The new state standards required improvement and revision of our current curriculum. In an effort to align our current curricula with those of the state, our corporation has formed committees to achieve this goal.

Art

The goal of the Grimmer art program is to maintain alignment with the state and national standards for the visual arts. Students who participate in Grimmer's comprehensive art program will have unique experiences.

5th Grade Art Curriculum – This course explores the elements and principles of art through comparing and contrasting and project based lessons. Art history, criticism, and production heavily influence this course.

6th Grade Art Curriculum – This course is based on the basics of art and how art can be integrated into other subject areas. Several forms of art criticism are introduced and used so that students can make informed judgments about their art and the art of others. Color theory is introduced and students must apply theory to their artwork.

7th Grade Art Curriculum - This course is based on art of the past. Students are introduced to popular periods of art from the late 19th century and work chronologically to the modern art of the 21st century. A variety of media is introduced, and production is based on inspiration from art history. Art criticism is reinforced through looking at the historical pieces of art.

8th Grade Art Curriculum – This course is based on independent study, creation of three-dimensional art, and life skills that involve the use of art skills. Through critique, students will describe, analyze, and interpret their works of art. Concepts of art and the use of recycled materials are incorporated into this course through the use of alternate media. Digital technology is also introduced through the use of Wacom Drawing tablets.

Band

The Grimmer Band is dedicated to the enrichment of a child's education through music. Educating the "whole child" is the goal of the band department here at Grimmer. At each grade level, band students are instructed in solo, ensemble, and full band settings. Below is an overview of each grade level and the standards that are applied at that grade level.

6th Grade Beginning Band – This is for first-year band students. Emphasis is placed on the basics of the instrument and music theory. Students learn to read and interpret music. Through lesson books and concert pieces, students are exposed to the relationships that music has with other arts and disciplines.

7th Grade Intermediate Band – Second-year band students work on advancing their performance techniques. At the seventh-grade level, band students are introduced to the history and culture of music. The emphasis is on tone quality, intonation, and dynamics. Performances such as ISSMA Solo/Ensemble and organizational events are used to expand the students' performance skills.

8th Grade Advanced Band – The top-performing group involves advanced instrumental techniques. This group is performance-oriented. Emphasis is placed on preparing the students for the transition into the high school program. The priority at this grade level is on extending the range of the instrument as well as exploration into improvisation and all forms and genres of music. Additionally, ISSMA Solo/Ensemble and organizational events are used to enhance the overall performance-based qualities of the students.

Choir and General Music

The Grimmer Choir and General Music is dedicated to the enrichment of a child's education through music. Educating the "whole child" is the goal of the music department here at Grimmer. At each grade level, choir and music students are instructed in solo, ensemble, and full band settings. Below is an overview of each grade level and the standards that are applied at that grade level.

5th Grade General Music Curriculum- In 5th grade general music students are exposed to the choir and band programs while working with both the band and choir instructors. Students are exposed to instruments and technology. Resources like YouTube, and Music First are used to create projects.

6th Grade Choir Curriculum- based on Sing at First Sight, students will learn the following elements in music theory: 4/4 Time, C Major Scale, F Major Scale, Quarter Note, Quarter Rest, Do, Re, Half Note, Half Rest, Mi, Fa, Whole Note, Whole Rest, Sol, La, Eighth Note, Eighth Rest, Ti, High Do, Repeat Sign, 1st and 2nd Endings, Tie, Dotted Half Note, Low Ti, High Re, Dotted Quarter Note, Low La, and Low Sol. Students will begin the school year singing in unison as they learn proper singing techniques and how to use and control their voices. As they learn and progress with these techniques, they will learn to sing in 2 –part harmony and sing in the voice type that fits them. As students learn and perform a piece of music properly and correctly, the music will become more difficult.

7th Grade Choir Curriculum- based on Sing at First Sight, students will learn the following elements in music theory: 4/4 Time, C Major Scale, F Major Scale, Quarter Note, Quarter Rest, Do, Re, Half Note, Half Rest, Mi, Fa, Whole Note, Whole Rest, Sol, La, Eighth Note, Eighth Rest, Ti, High Do, Repeat Sign, 1st and 2nd Endings, G Major, D Major, Tie, Dotted Half Note, Low Ti, High Re, Dotted Quarter Note, Low La, Low Sol, Intervals, 2nds, and 3rds. Students will sing in 2-part harmony the entire school year with a few 3-part exceptions. As students learn and perform a piece of music properly and correctly, the music will become more difficult.

8th Grade Choir Curriculum-based on Sing at First Sight, students will learn the following elements in music theory: 4/4 Time, C Major Scale, F Major Scale, Quarter Note, Quarter Rest, Do, Re, Half Note, Half Rest, Mi, Fa, Whole Note, Whole Rest, Sol, La, Eighth Note, Eighth Rest, Ti, High Do, Repeat Sign, 1st and 2nd Endings, G Major, D Major, Tie, Dotted Half Note, Low Ti, High Re, Dotted Quarter Note, Low La, Low Sol, Intervals, 2nds, and 3rds, Dynamics Signs, Crescendo, Decrescendo, Bb Major, Eb Major, $\frac{3}{4}$ Time, $\frac{2}{4}$ Time, 8ths/Octaves, Eighth-Quarter-Eighth Note Pattern, 4ths, 5ths, Tempo Markings, 6/8 Time. Students will begin the school year singing in 2-part harmony. By the end of the school year, students will sing one to two 3-part pieces. As students learn and perform a piece of music properly and correctly, the music will become more difficult.

Health

Upon completion of this course, sixth grade students will:

1. learn three components of the health pyramid, general hygiene practices
2. learn meaning of and practical applications of respect and responsibility
3. learn and practice decision making and goal setting
4. learn the varying players involved in bullying and what to do if they or someone they knows is being bullied or bullying

Upon completion of this course, seventh grade students will:

1. understand changes during adolescence and their causes
2. understand parts and functions of male and female reproductive systems
3. understand problems of male and female reproductive systems
4. be presented with abstinence in sexual activity before readiness
5. understand healthy eating and exercising habits

Upon completion of this course, eighth grade students will:

1. learn functions, parts of, problems with, and care for 4-5 body systems
2. learn basic facts about alcohol use, addiction, and abuse
3. learn basic facts about drug (legal and illegal) use, abuse, and addiction
4. learn and practice refusal skills

Language Arts

The language arts department has developed and implemented a comprehensive curriculum that meets or exceeds the state requirements while implementing all of the state standards. These documents are reviewed and revised continuously. Advanced sections are offered in all grades.

All students are expected to achieve at or above grade level with respect to state language arts standards, measured by administering quarterly CFAs and checkpoint assessments. Prior to the start of the school day, students who are having difficulty are offered additional help, two mornings a week.

Mathematics

All state standards are covered and reviewed as needed in each grade level's curriculum. All state standards are covered. Advanced sections are offered in all grades. Algebra I is offered to eighth grade advanced students.

All students are expected to achieve at or above grade level with respect to state mathematics standards. Prior to the start of the school day, students who are having difficulty are offered additional help, two mornings a week.

Physical Education

The physical education classes meet the state standards in grades five through eight. Students demonstrate competency in motor skills and movement patterns needed to perform a variety of physical activities. Students are encouraged to maintain a lifetime of fitness by participating in practical and real life activities. Students also participate in a variety of sports units in which they play in a group or team settings. By completing a variety of fitness, sport, and manipulative skills within the context of each grade level, all standards are met.

Science

Our curriculum is designed to emphasize grade level standards. We continue to use our student inquiry based curriculum. Standards which require a sequence of developmental steps will be introduced at one grade level and reinforced at a later grade level. The science department is continuously evaluating and revising the curriculum to provide clear and easy use of the standards. Test scores on both the ILEARN and common assessments are evaluated to determine areas in need of improvement or changes that will need to be made to the curriculum. Assessment of standards will occur through classroom assignments, lab reports, lab skill assessments, and CFAs. Advanced sections are offered in all grades. Prior to the start of the school day, students who are having difficulty are offered additional help, two mornings a week.

Social Studies

In all social studies classes grades five through eight, teachers align instruction to meet the state standards through the use of textbooks, student study guides, online news sources, audio-visual materials, supplemental readings, worksheets, and student magazines. Advanced sections are offered in all grades. A variety of instructional methods allows teachers to assess students' mastery of the curriculum within the timeframe of corporation-approved pacing guides. Advanced sections are offered in all grades. Prior to the start of the school day, students who are having difficulty are offered additional help, two mornings a week.

Technology Course Offerings:

- 5th Grade – Keyboarding

Fifth grade classes rotate every 9 weeks. We cover Computer literacy, Digital Citizenship and touch keyboarding skills with the students. The touch keyboarding skills that we cover is all the letters, the shift keys (Caps), period, comma, question mark and apostrophe. We consistently go over the computers ergonomics as they are typing on a daily basis (Domain – Technology Operating Skills - Core Standard 3 Effective Keyboarding Techniques). Under Computer literacy we are covering the state standards to establish the knowledge about the functions of computers in order to operate technology efficiently. Digital Citizenship standards are being covered with the following lessons: Talking safety online, Super Digital Citizen, Privacy Rules, What is Cyberbullying, and Selling Stereotypes.

- 6th Grade – Keyboarding

Sixth grade classes are semester classes. They are covering lessons about computer literacy, digital citizenship, touch keyboarding, and computer applications. Computer literacy standards that we are covering are computer operating systems, hardware, and software vocabulary that we use in class daily. Digital Citizenship standards are being met through short units on Digital Life 101, Strategic Searching, Scams and Schemes, Cyberbullying: Be Upstanding, A Creator's rights. The standards that apply for Word Processing Software; Presentation Software are; word processing – editing documents, document appearances, page setup, creating workbooks, applying formatting features, charts and graphs, creating presentations, enhancing visual presentations, multimedia delivery techniques and touch keyboarding technique. A new standard that we will be working on is Computer Science - coding. This is being accomplished through their many projects as well as on an online site called Code.org.

- 7th Grade – Digital Communication Tools (DCT):

Seventh grade classes are meeting for a semester. The students are covering lessons on touch keyboarding to build speed and accuracy, computer application – editing documents, digital citizenship and computer literacy.

The standards that apply for the computer applications are; word processing software; Spreadsheet software; presentation software; digital audio, video and images; communication software – editing documents, develop and refine proofreading skills, document appearances, page setup, create workbooks, apply formatting features, charts and graphs, create presentations, enhance visual presentations, and multimedia delivery techniques. Students are developing and refining their oral communication skills, speech recognition, dictation and editing, format text using speech commands; compose documents using speech recognition, and basic speech recognition commands and techniques using Dragon Naturally Speaking software and Google Talk to text. They are developing skills using mobile devices to create electronic records and to maintain electronic records using devices such as Kindle Fire HDs and iPads. Writing skills are being developed using a stylus with the Kindle Fires and iPads. We will spend some time on a unit that covers the standards of computer literacy about identifying and operating equipment, including startup and exit procedures, explain and use appropriate file management techniques, demonstrate ethical conduct as it relates to technology, assess software and hardware capability, explain and use appropriate computer terminology and select appropriate technology tool to solve a problem efficiently. A new standard that we will be working on is Computer Science - coding. This is being accomplished through their many projects as well as on an online site called Code.org.

- 8th Grade – Digital Citizenship

Eighth Grade classes meet for one semester to earn a high school credit in Computer Science. They are covering the state standards for Computing Foundations for a Digital Age, course code 4565.

Computers and the internet have revolutionized the way we access and disseminate information. As technology continues to change at an ever-increasing pace, the need for students to gain a foundational understanding of computer science is clear. Computing Foundations for a Digital Age is designed to introduce students to five major topics within computer science including computing systems and Security, networks and the internet, data and analysis, algorithms and planning, and impacts of computing. The course introduces foundational computing concepts while exploring current events and building critical thinking, collaboration, problem-solving, and other important skills that are invaluable for life in a global and technologically advancing society.

Technology Education – PLTW

The Grimmer Middle School technology education course is designed in conjunction with the Gateway to Technology (GTT) program through Project Lead the Way (PLTW). The program incorporates multiple units from PLTW to engage and empower middle school students to explore the growing areas of engineering, technology and computer science. Each PLTW Gateway unit engages students in activities that not only build knowledge and skills in these areas but also allows students to develop essential skills such as problem solving, critical and creative thinking, communication, collaboration, and perseverance.

The sixth grade course is an introduction to technology education through the PLTW Computer Science for Innovators and Makers curriculum. Throughout the unit, students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development, allowing students to

discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable projects.

At the seventh grade level, students take on PLTW's Design & Modeling unit of study. In this section, students will explore and utilize the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the unit to create designs and products of their own.

The eighth grade unit of study focuses on PLTW's Automation and Robotics curriculum. In this section of the program, students learn about the history and impact of automation and robotics as they explore mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Using the VEX Robotics® platform, students apply what they know to design and program traffic lights, robotic arms, and more.

CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE CURRENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING INCLUDING ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Assessment of student achievement is accomplished primarily through the state mandated ILEARN examination given in grades five through eight. ILEARN is given in the spring under the conditions set forth in the supporting materials for each assessment. The results of this assessment now reach schools by the end of May. These results are subsequently disaggregated, analyzed, and distributed as appropriate. The building administrative team updates the data room appropriately.

Current testing scores indicate that the majority of students are performing at a higher level than the state average in English & Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and Science. However, Grimmer Middle School recognizes a need for continued progress. **Grimmer Middle School believes that all students can grow and that growth will eventually lead to success.**

English/Language Arts scores are showing positive growth trends:

Cohort	Current Grade	2022	2023	2024	Growth
2029	8th	49%	54%	60%	+11%
2030	7th	NA	54%	57%	+3%
2031	6th	NA	NA	57%	

Generally, the weakest areas in language arts are reading with stamina and argumentative writing. When comparing the percentage passing of Grimmer students to the state average on the language arts portion, Grimmer students outperform the state average. Over one third of cohort 2029 (currently in 7th grade) scored Above Proficient on the ILEARN exam. The 6th grade LA teachers are a group that collaborates regularly and has created skills based assessments.

Mathematics faces a bigger challenge than Language Arts because students go from a 90 minute block in 5th grade to a 46 minutes block for grades 6-8. The data does reflect a negative impact in the reduction of instructional minutes. For example, Cohort 2029 shows a -2% decrease in growth yet they are 10% above the state average. Math teachers in grades 6-8 utilize resources such as morning tutoring, math labs, resource classes, and even advisory period to give students additional instructional minutes when needed.

Cohort	Current Grade	2022	2023	2024	Growth
2029	8th	51%	49%	43%	-8%
2030	7th	NA	52%	45%	-7%
2031	6th	NA	NA	51%	

**CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE CURRENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING:
PARENTAL PARTICIPATION IN THE SCHOOL**

Michael Grimmer Middle School believes in a collaborative partnership with parents and guardians of students. The principal sends out a monthly newsletter updating parents with relevant information. The principal also emails parents to keep them informed of school events or announcements they need to know. If the parents buy into Grimmer's goals, strategies, and objectives then they will hold their child accountable to the best of their ability.

Before a student begins his/her career at Grimmer Middle School, two orientation functions are held. Students visit the school during the spring of fourth grade to familiarize themselves with the building. Students are also given an opportunity to find classes and practice their locker combinations with support from National Junior Honor Society students prior to the school year beginning. Parents are invited to attend an evening orientation to familiarize themselves with the building.

Parents are invited to communicate with school personnel on a continual basis. Open house begins the year, allowing parents an important first connection with teachers. Teachers update student grades through the Skyward program which allows parents real-time access to their children's progress. All teachers are required to post assessment/assignment dates on Canvas (an online calendar available to all parents). Parents are encouraged to call or email with any questions and/or concerns.

Grimmer Middle School feels that by making parents aware of what is happening with their child and their child's school, a synergism is created in the best interest of each individual student. Teachers contact parents by means other than online report cards. Grimmer Middle School feels that this additional parent contact gives parents a chance to keep track of their student's educational progress and needs.

Parents are visible in the school in a number of settings. These include parents who volunteer wherever their services are needed, members of the Parent Teacher Organization, chaperones at after-school activities, and those who support their students and the entire school by their attendance at competitions and performances.

Parents of students in band are supportive of their children and the program. All of these parents support the band program through various activities as part of their membership of the Band Boosters. The boosters are headed by four dedicated individuals who regularly give of their time. These volunteers travel with the band to ISSMA competitions. They provide snacks during the summer band program. Selling tickets and decorating for concerts and organizing and coordinating all band fundraiser efforts are all examples of additional tasks done by the boosters.

The Parent Teacher Organization is also active at Grimmer. These individuals sponsor after-school dances. They assist with clerical duties. Through fundraising, PTO is able to help underwrite various classroom and extra-curricular expenses.

**CONCLUSIONS ABOUT CURRENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING:
INCLUDING THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM**

Currently, Grimmer Middle School is 1:1 with Chromebooks.

Students use their chromebooks for writing papers, researching topics, and creating projects; there is some use of the internet for research on the library computers as well. Assignments and assessments can be administered online through Canvas. They also integrate the use of Readworks.org for online reading and comprehension skills checks.

Mathematics teachers assign homework and assessments through the McGraw-Hill online platform. In 5th grade they also integrate iReady lessons monthly. Quizzes can be administered online through Canvas.

Science teachers have several interactive computer programs to use with their students (e.g., web quests, virtual labs, Google Slides presentations, etc.). They also use the internet for research on the students' chromebooks as well as on the library computers.

Social studies teachers use the computers for research into such diverse topics as elections, the American presidency, current events, statistics, and international holidays. Social Studies teachers may use Canvas to assign classwork and assessments.

Health teachers use the computers for drug education research.

The Music Department uses a web based program called MusicFirst. It includes programs for ear training, at home practicing, and rhythm instruction.

Grimmer teachers utilize Skyward, a computer grade program that provides students and parents with real-time grade access. Teachers also make use of Canvas, an online calendar tool for parents to view homework and upcoming assignments. Parent Square is a tool that teachers use to help keep parents informed.

**CONCLUSIONS ABOUT CURRENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING:
INCLUDING SAFE AND DISCIPLINED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

Grimmer Middle School, like all Lake Central schools, prioritizes the safety of its students. Great care is taken in drafting student rules and regulations. The administrative team updates rules annually after considering feedback from staff, examining records, and other current practices in public schools. All students have rules reviewed with them by principals at the beginning of each school year.

The building has been made secure. Employees have been issued a photo identification badge. This badge allows employees 24-hour access to the building, through electronic locks, during the regular school day. Keys to exterior doors are restricted to administrators and head custodian/maintenance personnel. Heavy-duty security doors are at each entrance, and an updated video surveillance system (2017) is in place.

In 2016, a new common language was implemented across all schools to increase student safety. Using common language that is consistent to schools across the country, the use of five codes has been implemented in all Lake Central schools: lockdown, lockout, evacuate, shelter, and hold.

Grimmer believes in doing everything possible to keep the child engaged in the classroom. The administrators and the guidance department deal with academic assistance and structuring methods to allow students to be successful in their educational program.

The Grimmer Middle School climate is one of high expectations for behavior and student achievement. There is a high level of proactive teacher presence during passing periods. Administrators and counselors regularly circulate throughout the building. During lunch periods, the administrative team supervises lunches with the help of paraprofessionals and teachers. The administrative team uses this time to have positive interactions with students such as playing Connect Four and generic football toss.

CONCLUSIONS ABOUT CURRENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING: INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Lake Central School Corporation is committed to continuous school improvement. Central to that improvement is a dedication to the training of all professional staff. This training is sometimes done as a corporation unit, occasionally involves sending representatives from each building to seminars and conferences, and has, in recent years, included opportunities for all staff to receive technology training at their needs level.

Professional development has been conducted in-house as needed. Department meetings occur on a monthly basis and aid teachers in examining strategies being practiced as well as areas of concern. Discussions about textbook adoptions, alignment of curriculum to the standards, and integrating technology into the classroom all occur during these sessions.

Part of Lake Central's technology plan has included training of teachers. Each teacher has a computer in his or her room and uses it to transmit daily attendance and quarterly grades. Electronic mail is also available for staff and parent communication. Parent Square is a new communication device used by Grimmer. Computer training is offered to all teachers new to the corporation as well as veteran teachers on an as-needed basis.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT OBJECTIVES

Attendance Rate: Currently, Grimmer Middle School does not meet expectations according to the Federal Report Card issued for the 2022-23 school year. Our score was below 50. Our strategies to improve attendance are the following:

- Create a learning environment that students want to be in. This ties into our third goal of creating an inclusive environment that fosters a sense of belonging.
- The administrative team does formally contact parents after 10 absences with a written letter and a request for a conference.
- Building Principals will contact IDOE regarding discrepancies in reporting numbers based on numbers shown on spreadsheet provided by the IDOE.

Percentage of Students Meeting Academic Standards: The objective is to be at or above the state average on the ILEARN test. Long-term, Grimmer Middle School desires to have 100 percent of its students display proficiency in language arts, math, science, and social studies.

Graduation Rate: Michael Grimmer Middle School only serves students in grades five through eight. Therefore, the graduation rate is not applicable.

SPECIFIC AREAS WHERE IMPROVEMENT IS NEEDED

The Grimmer Middle School School Improvement team analyzed our Federal Report Card along with ILEARN Data. As those present examined the topics that would most impact student achievement, agreement was reached on the items below as high priority and the most appropriate focus of Grimmer's School Improvement Plan.

1. The percentage of all students who meet or exceed the state average on the mathematics portion of the ILEARN test will increase.
 - a. Grade-level focus on mathematical learning targets and CFAs
 - b. Grade-level focus on implementing current curriculum
 - c. Maintain grade-level integration of iREADY (5th grade only) and data analyses after diagnostics

2. The percentage of all students who meet or exceed the state average on the language portions of the ILEARN test will increase.
 - a. Grade-level focus on writing constructed responses with common rubrics
 - b. Maintain grade-level integration of iREADY (5th grade only) and data analyses after diagnostics

3. Students and staff will promote a community of kindness.
 - a. Encourage random acts of kindness
 - b. Implementation of student wellness focused advisory class
 - c. Recognition of birthdays during lunch
 - d. School dances and spirit weeks

BENCHMARKS FOR PROGRESS

The long-term goal of Grimmer Middle School is to see all students proficient in all subject areas.

The Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) began implementation in the 2023-2024 school year. MTSS allows for students to receive targeted, individual academic assistance. Teachers work with administrators, parents, and students to develop a plan for intervention at three tiered levels. In the 2020-2021 school year, a Reading Specialist position was introduced to support the development of reading and writing in students. Reading intervention utilizes the Fountas and Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) program as well as Brainspring Structures. LLI is an intensive reading intervention program designed to meet the needs of students whose reading achievement is below the proficient level. Brainspring Structures transforms struggling readers into skilled learners supported by the Science of Reading strategies. Both programs directly address individual needs through direct instruction in reading and writing skills. Supplemental lessons aligned with learning targets are also taught to support student success in the classroom. Students are selected for reading intervention with the Reading Specialist based on teacher referrals as well as assessment data. Students below proficiency requiring services are pulled in groups of no more than four students. Groups meet during one of their two ELA periods twice a week for reading intervention and instruction. Students are progress monitored with weekly assessments based on targeted skills.

Grimmer Middle School intends to increase current attendance rates by addressing Goal number 4 in above plan. A decrease in the attendance rate would require special attention in the form of such interventions as new programs, incentives, and adjustments in policies.

ACADEMIC HONORS DIPLOMA AND CORE 40

Michael Grimmer Middle School serves students enrolled in grades five through eight. Grimmer students have the opportunity to earn high school credits in 8th grade through Algebra along with Computer Science class (8th grade only).

STATUTES AND RULES TO BE WAIVED

Michael Grimmer Middle School is not making any requests for waivers of statutes or rules for the 2024-2025 school year. All indications are that for at least the first year of implementation of our School Improvement Plan, no special allowances will be necessary. A request is made, however, to reserve the right to seek waivers for subsequent years of implementation. The need for any such waivers could conceivably arise during the research, study, and implementation phases of the plan.

APPENDIX A REFERENCE INFORMATION

CONCERNS TO ADDRESS

The concerns listed below are not in any particular order. They simply reflect a variety of areas that the Grimmer staff and administration feel need to be addressed to close the gap between our mission and our school portfolio.

- Math
- Reading
- Written expression including spelling
- Expanded extra-curricular offerings for sixth graders
- Study skills and organization
- Citizenship/civic responsibility
- Consistency (in teachers of enforcing school rules)
- Building-wide communication
- Move-ins (Assessment and assistance in transitioning)
- Teacher Morale (opportunities for more staff interaction)
- Quality of student work (penmanship/neatness)
- Referrals/discipline data (sharing information when appropriate)
- Honor Roll (method to reflect attendance)
- Timely communication of students' issues to appropriate staff
- Increased technology skills

CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

The following are co-curricular programs. They occur during the school day either on an on-going basis or as needed throughout the year.

- Awards Programs/Pep Assemblies
- Freshmen Scheduling and Orientation
- Drug and Alcohol Prevention Speakers
- Friday Spirit Activities
- Red Ribbon Week
- Seasonal Assemblies
- New Student Orientation
- Spirit Week Activities
- Veterans' Day Program
- Thanksgiving Food Drive
- 21st Century Scholar Program
- Various fundraisers for charitable causes
- Band and Choir Concerts

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

The extra-curricular programs listed below are athletic in nature. Indication is also given as to what grades are eligible for participation.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| ● Football | 7 th /8 th |
| ● Spring Football | 6 th /7 th |
| ● Cross-Country | 6 th /7 th /8 th |
| ● Volleyball | 7 th /8 th |
| ● Cheerleading | 7 th /8 th |
| ● Dance Team | 7 th /8 th |
| ● Wrestling | 6 th /7 th /8 th |
| ● Basketball | 7 th /8 th |
| ● Track | 6 th /7 th /8 th |
| ● Running Club | 5 th /6 th /7 th /8 th |
| ● Tennis Club | 5 th /6 th /7 th /8 th |

EXTRA AND CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

The programs listed below are a mixture of extra- and co-curricular. Eligibility requirements are clearly explained to all students who might be interested in participation. The majority of the activities are open to all students, with try-outs required for most groups that perform or compete. Those activities that limit the number of students involved, or that have membership requirements, are listed first. Those activities with no qualifications listed have completely open membership.

ACTIVITY	QUALIFICATIONS
● IBA All-Region Band	Grades 7/8 in Band who qualify
● IBA Jr. All-State Band	Grades 7/8 in Band who qualify
● Bell Choir	Grades 6/7/8
● Crescendos	Grades 5/7/8
● Drama	Grades 6/7/8
● ISSMA solo/ensemble contest	All in Band, Choir or Bells
● Jazz Band	Grades 7/8 in Band
● National Junior Honor Society	Grades 7/8 qualifying students
● Future Problem Solvers	Grades 6/7/8
● Student Council	Grades 5/6/7/8
● Chess Club	Grades 6/7/8
● Hoosier Spell Bowl	Grades 5/6/7/8
● Science Olympiad	Grades 6/7/8
● White Paper Recycling	Grades 5/6/7/8
● Academic Super Bowl	Grades 6/7/8
● Student Ambassadors	Grades 5/6/7/8
● Cooking Club	Grade 5
● Fitness Club	Grade 5
● Running Club	Grades 6/7/8
● Math Counts	Grades 6/7/8
● Math Bowl	Grades 6/7/8
● 5th Grade Choir	Grade 5

MISCELLANEOUS STUDENT PROGRAMS

Grimmer also offers a variety of programs that do not fit into any of the above categories. Many of these occur outside the regular school day. They provide a mix of academic and social opportunities for the Grimmer students and/or parents. Again, as need dictates or opportunities for reaching a broader portion of the student and community become available, new options are investigated and initiated.

- Concerts
- Dances
- Play Performances
- Student Ambassador Program

MISCELLANEOUS PARENT PROGRAMS

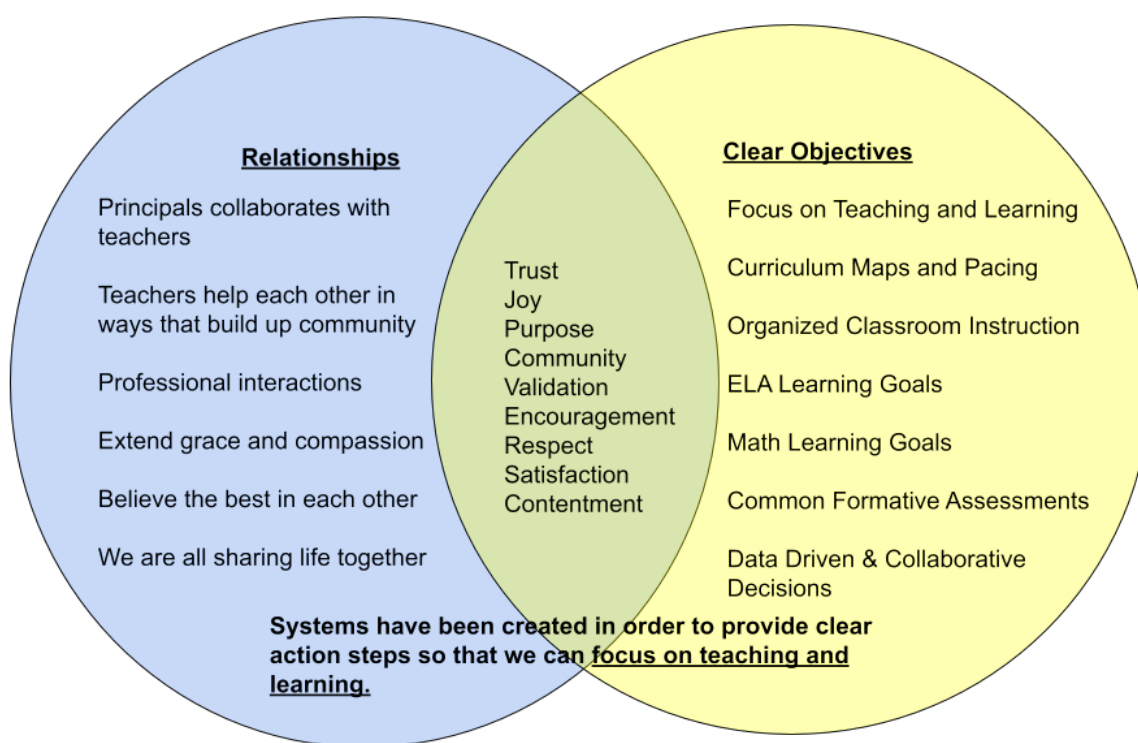
Listed below are some of the strategies Grimmer Middle School has in place to keep parents informed about Grimmer and their student as well as involved in school activities:

- Grimmer Website
- Monthly Newsletter
- Skyward Online Information Access System
- Interim grades posted in Skyward (every 2 weeks)
- Final grades posted in Skyward (every 9 weeks)
- Parent phone calls
- Open House
- Canvas
- Email to parents
- ParentSquare
- Individualized Parent Teacher Conferences
- PTO
 - Meetings
 - Volunteering opportunities
 - Fundraising
- Concerts
- Plays
- Sporting Events
- Dances
- Fourth Grade Parents' Night (for incoming fifth graders)
- Eighth Grade Parents' Night at the Freshman Center
- Freshman Scheduling of Eighth Grade Students
- Additional Parent Communication Tools (available as needed)

APPENDIX B DATA

DISCIPLINE

Grimmer Middle has created systems so all staff know how to handle behavioral issues that may happen during the school day. Those systems belong to an overall playbook that all staff have access to. Grimmer strives for clarity and consistency when navigating disciplinary issues. Grimmer maintains a focus on teaching and learning by having this structure in place.



APPENDIX C
ISTEP+ DATA

	Grade	Year	State	Grimmer	Difference
English/LA	5	2013	77	87	10
		2014	79	86.6	7.6
		2015	65.2	74.1	8.9
		2016	63.4	67.0	3.6
		2017	62.4	68.6	6.2
		2018	60.4	66.0	5.6
		2019	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	2013	75	85	10
		2014	76	87.1	11.1
		2015	65.8	75.2	9.4
		2016	66.3	80.2	13.9
		2017	66.5	77.4	10.9
		2018	65.2	77	11.8
		2019	N/A	N/A	N/A
	7	2013	71	76	5
		2014	75	84.2	9.2
		2015	65.7	77.7	12
		2016	67.5	81.9	14.4
		2017	65.1	78.9	13.8
		2018	64.3	82.6	18.3
		2019	N/A	N/A	N/A
	8	2013	73	82	9
		2014	74	85.9	11.9
		2015	63.7	69.9	6.2
		2016	61.8	79	17.2
		2017	61.8	65	3.2
		2018	63.6	75.7	12.1
		2019	N/A	N/A	N/A

	Grade	Year	State	Grimmer	Difference
Math	5	2013	85	86	1
		2014	88	90.5	2.5
		2015	68.4	72.7	4.3
		2016	65.6	61	-4.6
		2017	65.8	67	1.2
		2018	65.6	70.2	4.6
		2019	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	2013	82	86	4
		2014	84	87.2	3.2
		2015	61.9	60.3	-1.6
		2016	59.8	66	6.2
		2017	59.6	60.8	1.2
		2018	57.9	65.1	7.2
		2019	N/A	N/A	N/A
	7	2013	78	75	-3
		2014	79	79.1	.1
		2015	54.1	53.1	-1
		2016	52.3	45.4	-6.9
		2017	50.6	52.9	2.3
		2018	50.3	53.4	3.1
		2019	N/A	N/A	N/A
	8	2013	79	84	5
		2014	80	86.3	6.3
		2015	54.2	62.6	8.4
		2016	53.4	51.7	-1.7
		2017	55.1	47.1	-8
		2018	55.7	63.1	7.4
		2019	N/A	N/A	N/A

APPENDIX D
ILEARN DATA

	Grade	Year	State	Grimmer	Difference
English/LA	5	2019	47	43	-4
	6	2019	47	65	18
	7	2019	49	62	13
	8	2019	50	58	8
	Grade	Year	State	Grimmer	Difference
Math	5	2019	47	50	3
	6	2019	46	52	6
	7	2019	41	47	6
	8	2019	37	36	-1