

Brentwood Freshman Center

S.I.T Plan

2018- 2019

Principal: Mr. Vincent Autera
Assistant Principals: Dr. Chief Taylor
Ms. Stephanie Weeks

S.I.T Team Members:

Co-Chairperson, Ms. Kristine Curran
Co-Chairperson, Ms. Jennifer Loeffler
Secretary, Ms. Tracy Macaluso

Faculty Members:

Zulma Campos
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Brentwood Freshman Center
School Improvement Goals
2018- 2019

Goals:

1. Increase community relations
2. Implement effective methods and instructional strategies using scientifically- based research
3. Encourage reading and literacy
4. Support the social/emotional health of the students
5. Maintain student recognition activities
6. Address the needs of all students in the school, particularly the needs of students who are not meeting with success.
7. Create a Building Beautification Team

Goal 1- Increase Community Relations:

A. Parental Engagement Activities in English and Spanish

- a. Translated materials (printed)
- b. Translation services (Propilio)
- c. Translators

B. SIT-Sponsored “Trick or Treat Street”

The Brentwood Freshman Center S.I.T team sponsors this event and invites the Brentwood elementary school students to the Freshman Center for an evening of Halloween Fun. There are crafts and treats, along with a “Mad Science Lab” for all children to enjoy. Each room is created and run by our clubs or teachers and they are assisted by our own Freshman Center students. Elementary school students were given a flyer to bring home in their backpacks, parents were informed of the event through automated phone calls, and additionally, it was posted on the Brentwood Moms and Dads page.

C. Back to School Night

Parents are invited to get a glimpse of what their child’s day is like. Parents have the opportunity to follow their child’s schedules and meet all of their teachers where they are informed about the courses they are taking, and further review classroom expectations. Additionally, the New York State “School Report Card” presentation is given at the beginning of the evening to encourage high attendance for this activity.

D. Community School

Leaders of the Future Club

Guitar Club

Yoga

Walk and Talk

Book Club

Paint Night

Saturday Academy

Math and English extra help

Additional supports and activities to foster the parent/school/ community connection:

- Parent-friendly phone system and district-wide recorded messages in both Spanish and English
- Parent participation in the SIT team
- Parent orientation for incoming 9th graders in Spanish and English
- Parent Handbook- available in Spanish and English
- Brentwood Freshman Center Website where parents can access important school information

Goal 2. Implement effective methods and instructional strategies using scientifically- based research:

A. Instructional Rounds

The purpose of Instructional Rounds is to learn about effective learning and teaching, improve our collective teaching practice, and build a culture where discussions center around learning and instruction.

The Rounds committee will continue to share its findings with the full faculty.

Based on our findings with Rounds, we have presented PD to full faculty meeting and department meetings on the following topics:

- The importance of task directions
- Wait time
- Higher Order Thinking Skills

We will look at our findings from this year's Round to determine our PD topics.

On-going participation in Instructional Rounds achieves the following:

Expand participation in meaningful professional development and collegial collaboration.

Work together to formulate a "Problem of Practice" aligned to the specific needs as identified by the participating teachers

Collaborate to develop "findings" to present to SIT for recommendations for professional development to improve student learning as stated in the Problem of Practice.

Increases articulation and collaboration by working with all of the middle schools and the High School.

B. Increase Rigor to Meet State Standards

SpringBoard- Based on feedback from Rounds, SpringBoard is being piloted to help shift instruction towards increasing rigor. The program is created by College Board and contains the skills that students will need to be successful on state exams, as well as the SAT and AP Exams.

Mid- Terms- A committee was formed to create mid-term days. The philosophy behind this is to create a testing situation for students that will mimic the Regents exam testing. Since the Opt-Out movement, many students have not been exposed to those specific type of testing conditions. Students will learn how to sit for an extended exam, and learn how to budget their time appropriately. Additionally, it will create more validity to the exam, so it won't be split up over several days- (also increasing instruction time). These assessments will be used as formative assessments that will drive instruction as we head into the second half of the year.

Goal 3- Encourage Reading and Literacy

Literacy Team

Projects:

- Focus on Tier 2 vocabulary and extracting information, including task directions (based on our Rounds findings.
- Continue to support Collins Writing Program and SIOP strategies
- Continue with Word of the Week, which are all academic vocabulary words- additionally, all Words of the Week are displayed in our "Literacy Lane" hallway by the library
- Continue with the Book Brigade which is a group that meets after school to read a common book and have activities based around that book.
- Stranger Things Saga- Students entered a nationwide contest to have their stories published. Many students who entered, had their stories ch
- Continue with writing contests that offer prizes to students and support literacy.

Goal 4- Support the Social and Emotional Health of Our Students

- Summer Bridge Program- Students were offered the opportunity to participate in a program aimed to ease into the transition from middle school to high school. There were icebreaker activities along with a math and literacy component
- #Startwithhello- Students watched a video and were encouraged to speak to someone who appeared to be alone, as well as to watch for signs of someone who was in trouble
- Teen Truth- Students were able to view the “Teen Truth” presentation during the first week of school. ____ discussed the challenges teens face. Furthermore, a breakout group of approximately 50 students, to follow up from the assembly. They came up with many suggestions about how to enhance their school experience.
- “Power of Positive”- This initiative was based upon the student responses to the “Teen Truth” workshop. There is a wall, in the cafeteria, where students can write positive messages to boost each
- “Motivational Monday” This initiative was also based upon the student responses to “Teen Truth” workshop. Every Monday, there will be an inspirational clip played over the loudspeaker to start the week off for students in a positive way.
- Friendship Club-
- “Every Brilliant Thing” play and workshop- Every Brilliant Thing is a play written by Duncan Macmillan and Jonny Donahue, first published in 2015. The play premiered on HBO as an original documentary in 2016, filmed at the Barrow Street Theatre, off-Broadway. The play narrates the personal story of a seven-year-old boy/girl who begins a list of a million brilliant things or everything worth living for to inspire his/her mother who has attempted suicide. As the narrator ages, the list grows and is reflective of the stage of life that the narrator is currently living, transitioning to childlike entries to adolescent and then adult items. The audience interacts with the narrator by playing several roles and also helping to call out the items on the list.
- Girls’ Inc.-
- My Brother’s Keeper-

Goal 5- Maintain Student Recognition Activities

- **Academic Awards-** students are chosen based on report card grades or student improvement, as well as overall attitude and actions in the class.
- **Honor Roll Awards-** each marking period, there is an ice cream party and certificates awarded to students who achieved Honor Roll status.
- **Student(s) of the Month-** teachers nominate students on a monthly basis based on character, improvement, and/or grades.
- **National Junior Honor Society-** students who demonstrate character, leadership, service, along with a cumulative average of 85 will be inducted into the National Junior Honor Society.
- **Perfect Attendance-** students who achieve perfect attendance are recognized at the end of the year.

Goal 6- Address the needs of all students in the school, particularly the needs of students who are not meeting with success.

Provide AIS for all students that meet the criteria based on the RI, State Assessments, teacher recommendation, and common assessments.

- A skills- based AIS class was created to help identified students and struggling students in English. These students have an additional period every other day that is attached to the English class.
- A new AIS course for math was created to service struggling math students which also contains an additional period every other day. The students will be supported with the skills they need to be successful on the Algebra Regents, which they will take at the end of the year.

Additional Supports:

- Read 180
- Math Lab
- Administration of the Reading Inventory (RI) to assess our struggling readers
- Progress monitoring students with Below Basic on the RI
- Creation of the Homework Support Club- students will have a quiet place to complete their homework and have the availability of a teacher to help them
- The computer lab is now open after school to offer additional support for students

Goal 7- Create a School Beautification Team

In order to foster a pleasant learning environment, the committee is creating a Beautification Club

- Installation of filtered water fountains for students and staff
- Updating pictures around the building (putting in Brentwood Photos to instill pride)
- Freshening up and cleaning up the courtyard for future student and staff activities
- Motivational messages on staircases

