

School LAND Trust Program

Hillcrest Jr. High School Mid-Year Report to Parents

Academic Goal #1: Literacy

Student achievement data continues to show a need to improve the literacy skills of all students across all content areas. Hillcrest Jr. High School will continue to use the School LAND Trust monies to support reading and writing across the curriculum. With the implementation of the new Language Arts and Mathematics Common Cores, this will be an essential focus.

What is being done for students at Hillcrest Jr. High:

1. Literacy Aid: The Hillcrest Jr. High School Literacy Aid assists all teachers with the school-wide focus on literacy with specific emphasis on vocabulary and literary/informational texts. This aid conducts book talks in classes, helps coordinate and run the monthly book club, and coordinates our school-wide Word-of-the-Week vocabulary word (which can be found each week on our HJH website.) This Literacy Aid supports the Hillcrest Jr. High School Desired Result for Student Learning (DRSL) of Effective Communication.
2. School-Wide Writing Assessment (fall). All students took a writing assessment in September. School Land Trust funds were used to pay a stipend for nine English teachers to grade these writing assessments. Data from the assessments is used by school departments throughout the year.

Academic Goal #2: Fostering a Learning Community

Student achievement data continues to show that there are students who are struggling academically. We will maintain use of the School LAND Trust money to fund academic supports for students. We will also be taking the next steps in implementing of a Response to Intervention Model to build intervention time into our school day for the 2012-2013 school year. This will require a considerable amount of time and training the faculty on using creating and using data driven assessments to channel students into the intervention model.

What is being done for students at Hillcrest Jr. High:

1. Gladiator Tutor Aid. This aid offers free tutoring for all subjects (except math) each Tuesday and Thursday from 3 pm – 4 pm in room #24. The tutoring is run by Ms. Kirk who is a certified teacher. This Gladiator Tutor Aid supports the Hillcrest Jr. High School Desired Result for Student Learning (DRSL) of Personal & Social responsibility.
2. Math Aid. This aid works with our mathematics department to assist students. This aid provides free tutoring for all levels of math each Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 3 pm – 4 pm in room #11. This tutor is available to answer questions, re-teach concepts, give small group instruction, and administer test/quizzes/etc. This Math Aid supports the Hillcrest Jr. High School Desired Result for Student Learning (DRSL) Effective Communication and Thinking & Reasoning.
3. Computer Aid. This aid runs an open computer lab for students to use before school at 7:30 am in room #21 each Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The lab is staffed by a certified teacher – Ms. Haight – who is available to help students use the computers for academic use. This Computer Aid supports the Hillcrest Jr. High School Desired Result for Student Learning (DRSL) Effective Communication and Technology.
4. Response to Intervention. School LAND Trust monies have been used for professional development for the faculty of Hillcrest Jr. High School on the Response to Intervention Model (RTI) to be implemented in the 2012-2013 school. To date, substitutes for 13 teachers have been paid out of School LAND Trust money to visit other schools and see different models of RTI currently in use. School LAND Trust money was also used to purchase the book “The Art and Science of Teaching” for each teacher so as to increase their Tier 1 instruction to all students. Teachers are doing a book study of this text throughout the year so as to improve their overall teaching.