

Cohoes High School



Building Leadership Team 2016-2017

Heather Bradt- Teacher
Caryn Dollard- Teacher
Rachel Polaski- Teacher
Maggie Russom- Psychologist
Rob Santarcangelo- Teacher
Linda Skroupa- Receptionist
Laura Tarlo- Assistant Principal
Bryan Wood- Principal

We Believe in Future-Ready Knowledge and Skills

COMMITMENT: All students will be immersed in rigorous coursework and engaged in learning that promotes curiosity, creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, communication, citizenship and compassion for others.			
PRIORITY: Expanding Project-Based Learning			
HOW	WHO	WHEN	STATUS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide teachers with professional development 	Jen Sangiacomo	Regularly	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand teachers knowledge of project-based learning via turn-key presentation (Share out) 	Staff	Faculty Meetings	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher leaders will request curriculum time for department members to create project-based learning 	Teacher Leaders	On-Going	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher leaders will schedule time for department to develop Inter-curricular projects 	Teacher Leaders	Department Meetings	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate non-regents based courses into the scope of project based learning 	BLT	On-Going	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate the current use of the “Project-Based Learning” classrooms 	BLT & Admin	On-Going	
CHECK-IN/SHARE-OUT	UPDATE		

Preparing Students for Success in Tomorrow's World

We Believe in Future-Ready Knowledge and Skills

COMMITMENT: All students will be immersed in rigorous coursework and engaged in learning that promotes curiosity, creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, communication, citizenship and compassion for others.			
PRIORITY: Implementing Google Apps for Education, including Gmail for staff & students			
HOW	WHO	WHEN	STATUS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather information from staff regarding needs in terms of professional development 	BLT	On-Going	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher leaders will facilitate Google trainings in their department meetings 	Teacher Leaders	Department Meetings	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop & deliver professional development to encourage the efficient use of Google Apps by staff 	Jen Sangiacomo	Faculty Meetings	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop teacher's ability to promote efficient use of Gmail by staff and students 	Jen Sangiacomo	Faculty & Department Meetings	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher modeled appropriate use of Google Apps and Gmail by the students 	Teachers	On-Going	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Google Tips at monthly faculty meetings 	Teachers	Faculty Meetings	
CHECK-IN/SHARE-OUT	UPDATE		

Preparing Students for Success in Tomorrow's World

We Believe in a Culture of High Expectations

COMMITMENT: All students will be supported to meet high expectations and graduate college and career ready.			
PRIORITY: Engaging parents, students, and the community to support the “Every Minute Matters” attendance campaign			
HOW	WHO	WHEN	STATUS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce “Every Minute Matters” campaign to the staff. 	Administration & BLT	October	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance Committee will compile data to identify students with attendance issues and provide interventions 	Attendance Committee	On-Going	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers regularly submit attendance within the first 10 minutes of each class period 	Teachers	Daily	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers establish open & regular communication with families regarding students with attendance issues 	Teachers	As needed	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance Committee will create a Google Form which will facilitate information regarding attendance issues 	Attendance Committee	End of October	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faculty & Staff will report attendance concerns for individual students to the attendance committee. 	Faculty & Staff	On-Going	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faculty & Staff educating students on the importance of attendance and its impact on their success in school 	Faculty & Staff	September	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assign mentors to high school students with chronic absenteeism. Adopt-A-Student Program 	HS Admin Team	Fall, Spring	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance staff, social workers & psychologists will refer students and families to additional services outside of school 	Guidance Staff, Social Workers, Etc	On-Going	
CHECK-IN/SHARE-OUT	UPDATE		

Preparing Students for Success in Tomorrow's World

We Believe in a Culture of High Expectations

COMMITMENT: All students will be supported to meet high expectations and graduate college and career ready.			
PRIORITY: Planning for the implementation of a New Master Schedule at the high school			
HOW	WHO	WHEN	STATUS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further develop & implement the 9th Grade Academy 	Admin & affected teachers	Monthly meetings	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish teachers that are specialized in terms of the courses they teach 	Teacher leaders	September 2017	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discover or re-evaluate the schedule and determine if changes can be made to further meet the needs of the students 	Admin & teacher leaders	On-Going	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine educational benefits of course electives and examine frequency in course offerings 	Admin, teacher leaders & teachers	On-Going	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce new courses in an effort to offer a variety of courses for students 	Teachers	January	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further development of AIS curriculum in an effort to meet the individual needs of students in those courses 	Teacher leaders & teachers	On-Going	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address the availability of AIS courses so that students can attend these courses in the morning/afternoon 	Admin, Teacher Leaders & BLT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate & establish requirements for entrance into honors and advanced placement courses 	Teacher leaders, BLT, and teachers	January	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate the locations of classroom teachers & school programs 	BLT & Admin	On-Going	

CHECK-IN/SHARE-OUT	UPDATE
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Preparing Students for Success in Tomorrow's World

We Believe in a Culture of High Expectations

COMMITMENT: All students will be supported to meet high expectations and graduate college and career ready.			
PRIORITY: Establishing a 9 th Grade Academy to support students' transition, social-emotional and academic performance			
HOW	WHO	WHEN	STATUS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate the effectiveness and implementation of the 9th Grade Academy 	9 th Grade Teachers & Admin	On-Going	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer insight based on experience on how to further improve the functionality of the 9th Grade Academy 	9 th Grade Teachers & Admin	On-Going	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate guidance staff, social workers, and psychologists into 9th Grade Academy daily operations to meet the needs of students 	Guidance staff, social workers, and psychologists	On-going	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish communications and expectations between 8th and 9th grade teachers to ensure needs to students are met 	9 th Grade Teachers & Admin	April	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular meetings among the 9th Grade Academy teachers to work collectively to ensure the academic success of students 	9 th Grade Teachers & Admin	Monthly	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement specialization of teachers in an effort to promote staff collaboration which elicits student success 	Teacher Leaders	January	
CHECK-IN/SHARE-OUT	UPDATE		

Preparing Students for Success in Tomorrow's World

We Believe in a Culture of High Expectations

COMMITMENT: All students will be supported to meet high expectations and graduate college and career ready.			
PRIORITY: Promoting a positive school culture by further enhancing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and alternatives to suspension			
HOW	WHO	WHEN	STATUS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting the incorporation of PBIS into daily school activities 	PBIS	On-Going	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide support and resources provided to PBIS in an effort to promote the effective use of PBIS 	Admin	On-Going	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage staff buy-in to the PBIS program by offering incentives to staff that actively participate 	PBIS & Admin	Monthly	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporation of PBIS into school classrooms which promotes student participation 	PBIS	October	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elicit feedback from program effectiveness by staff and students 	PBIS	Quarterly	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-establish the practice of writing positive referrals for students exhibiting appropriate school behavior 	PBIS & Admin	September	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize and schedule PBIS events for students to showcase their positive behavior in school 	PBIS	September-March	
CHECK-IN/SHARE-OUT	UPDATE		

Preparing Students for Success in Tomorrow's World

We Believe in Learning By All

COMMITMENT: All teachers will have the knowledge to expertly deliver instruction and meet the unique needs of all learners.			
PRIORITY: Implementing 12 Power-Techniques from Teach Like a Champion 2.0: 62 Techniques that put Kids on a Path to College			
HOW	WHO	WHEN	STATUS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish two additional power-techniques from Teach Like a Champion to present to staff 	BLT	September	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assign departments, administration, and support staff specific chapters/techniques to present to staff at faculty meetings 	BLT, Teacher Leaders, Teachers & Admin	October-March	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish & encourage instructional rounds model for teachers to view TLAC techniques in action 	BLT & Teacher Leaders	November-June	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold monthly book-study discussions at faculty meetings on the TLAC techniques and how these techniques can be used in the classroom 	All faculty & staff	Monthly	
CHECK-IN/SHARE-OUT	UPDATE		

Preparing Students for Success in Tomorrow's World

We Believe in Learning By All

COMMITMENT: All teachers will have the knowledge to expertly deliver instruction and meet the unique needs of all learners.			
PRIORITY: Expanding trauma-sensitive school district practices guided by ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences)			
HOW	WHO	WHEN	STATUS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase the rights to the movie, <i>Paper Tigers</i> and provide faculty with time to view/discuss the film 	Admin, BLT, and ACE's members	November 8th	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite guidance staff, social workers, and school psychologists to educate staff members on current issues facing our students 	BLT & Guidance Staff	October	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have faculty & staff take ACEs survey in order to understand how ACEs functions 	BLT	October	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide professional development that will continuously reiterate the impact of trauma on our student population and how this impacts their academic success 	Admin & BLT	On-Going	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACEs committee present at faculty meeting to explain overview and purpose 	ACEs Committee	October	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book study by ACE committee members for interested faculty 	ACEs Committee	October-June	
CHECK-IN/SHARE-OUT	UPDATE		

Preparing Students for Success in Tomorrow's World

We Believe in Learning By All

COMMITMENT: All teachers will have the knowledge to expertly deliver instruction and meet the unique needs of all learners.			
PRIORITY: Refining the use of data to inform instruction and guide high school practices			
HOW	WHO	WHEN	STATUS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop common language to be used throughout Regents and non-Regents curriculums to address reading/writing skills 	Admin, BLT, & Teacher Leaders	November	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate the potential benefits of combining AIS Social Studies and English to better meet the needs of our students 	Admin, BLT, & Teacher Leaders	November	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the piloting of AIS Social Studies/English to determine future viability in course offerings 	Admin, BLT, & Teacher Leaders	February	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-evaluate the overall implementation/scheduling of AIS courses to align with teacher certification and student needs 	Admin, BLT, & Teacher Leaders	January	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinstate teacher recommendations so that, along with course requirements, students are enrolled in courses that align to cognitive ability 	Admin, BLT, & Teacher Leaders	January	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish exit evaluations to be done by teachers at the end of the school year in an effort to determine if additional support is needed for students to succeed 	Admin, BLT, & Teacher Leaders	March	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate and establish course requirements for honors and advanced placement courses 	Admin, BLT, & Teacher Leaders	January	
CHECK-IN/SHARE-OUT	UPDATE		

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