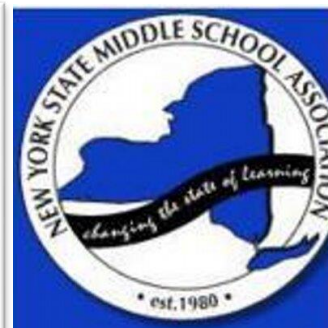


BALLSTON SPA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Building Leadership Team

2016-17



MEET THE TEAM

- **Mary Barrette, LOTE Teacher**
- **Angela Johanning, Math Teacher**
- **Michelle Brandt, Math Teacher**
- **Jason Belknap, Art Teacher**
- **Kim Pusatere, Social Studies Teacher**
- **Alison Paley, ELA ITL 6-8**
- **Jennifer Callender, Math Teacher**
- **Michelle Palmer, Counselor**
- **Sarah Albrycht, LOTE Teacher**
- **Kathy Cline, SPED Teacher**
- **Erin Pezzulo, School RN**
- **Rhonda Mascardi, TA and Parent**

- **Pam Motler, Principal**
- **Andrew Muller, Assistant Principal**
- **Kim Bolster, Assistant Principal**
- **Ayumi Kasai, Parent**
- **Stacey Gouvitsas, LOTE Teacher**
- **Gaylen Wichrowski, Social Worker**
- **Christine Jones, Social Worker**
- **Hilary Northrop, Science Teacher**
- **Catherine Casella, Health Teacher**
- **Stacey Gerwitz, Librarian**
- **Erika Hover, Speech Pathologist**
- **Chris Perrone, Social Studies Teacher**



SCHOOLS TO WATCH DOMAINS

Academic Excellence
Developmental Responsiveness
Organizational Structure
Social Equity



TARGETED WORK 2016-2017

1. EdLeader21 Critical Thinking Initiative: Rollout of resources and teacher PD
2. Suspension Solutions Year Two
3. NYS Green Ribbon School Designation: Initial Work
4. Complete Schools to Watch re-designation application process



SUB-COMMITTEES

- **Green Ribbon Schools**
- **Critical Thinking**
- **Restorative Practices**



EDLEADER21: CRITICAL THINKING



Three Pronged
Approach to
Professional
Development

Teacher
Background
Knowledge

Education and
PD surrounding
the EdLeader21
Rubric

Implementation
of the
indicators of
the rubric



CRITICAL THINKING PD AND NEXT STEPS

PD #1:

Critical Thinking in the Classroom

PD #2:

Common topics resulting from questions from the first PD:

- Student reluctance
- Time
- Designing a task (examples)
- Video: Critical Thinking in Action

Next Steps

Summer:

- MLP will have multiple offerings for Critical Thinking PD for Middle School Staff

2017-18:

- BLT will continue with Critical Thinking PD until we feel the third “prong” to our approach is adequately addressed.
(Implementation of the Indicators)



SUSPENSION SOLUTIONS: YEAR TWO

- Restorative Practices
- Mediation Training and Incorporation
- Restorative Circles
- Mindfulness



RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

■ Building-Wide Book Study:

- *The Little Book of Restorative Practice for Schools*
- Building-wide PD Sessions Oct 24th, Nov 28th and Dec 19th
- Feb 10th PD

■ Skidmore College Restorative Practices Panel:

- 8 area schools have formed a Restorative Practices Consortium
- Muller and Bolster are on this panel to develop common practice
- Tuesday monthly meetings
- Building faculty share-out and PD



MEDIATION TRAINING AND INCORPORATION

Next Steps: We envision a group of trained mediators who have two roles:

- Able and available to run restorative circles (in pairs) in classrooms when needed. For example: If a teacher is having difficulties with a particular class they can request an outside person to come in to run a Restorative Circle to address some of the issues in their classroom.
- Able and available to mediate two students referred by administration or the Guidance Departement



RESTORATIVE CIRCLES

- Partnered with Skidmore College Using *Circle Forward* resource
- College Students ran restorative circles with our students four Wednesdays after school during the month of March
- Administrators, Counselors and Teachers now incorporating circles in the classroom



MINDFULNESS WORK

2015-16

- One 6th grade science class, 25 students: 10 minute mindfulness lesson once per week- plus 3 minute core breathing exercises each morning.

2016-17

- 6th Grade, 294 students and select upper level classes



MINDFULNESS WORK

2017-18:

- Expand Mindfulness to include our entire BSMS student body
- Train the remaining staff in techniques and exercises during a Superintendent's Conference in the fall
- 6 lessons in 6th grade
- 6 lessons incorporated into 7th grade health
- 8th grade will continue with select courses and incorporate lessons into 8th grade health in 2018-19



GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS PROGRAM

- The U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) program recognizes schools taking a comprehensive approach to greening their school. A comprehensive approach incorporates environmental learning with improving environmental and health impacts.



GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS PROGRAM



Three Pillars

- **Reduced Environmental Impact and Costs**
- **Improved Health and Wellness**
- **Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education**



GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS

- Increased recycling in the cafeteria
- Double recycle/trash bins in every hallway
- Single-stream recycling in every classroom
- Marker recycling program
- Videos in each classroom educating students on the benefits of recycling/composting
- Implemented building-wide Recycling Awareness “Earth Week”

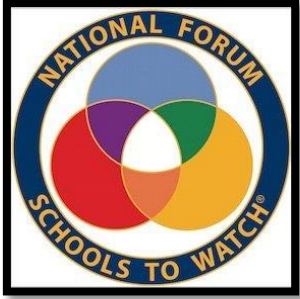


GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS

NEXT STEPS:

The team has been investigating the application process to The National Wildlife Federation Eco-Schools USA.





SCHOOLS TO WATCH RE-DESIGNATION APPLICATION PROCESS/TIMELINE

- 1. Received Application from NYSED: September 2016**
- 2. School Self-Rating Rubric: Dec/Jan 2016**
- 3. Compilation of Data: spring 2017**
- 4. Submission Deadline: July 21**
- 5. Site Review: fall 2017**

