

Report of the Ellis School Principal

I am in my 5th year as principal of the Ellis School. The 5-year mark is a good time to reflect on the accomplishments of the administration, staff and students of Ellis School. I have chosen to highlight some of the major work done by the Ellis Community over the past 5 years.

Report Cards

One of my biggest undertaking in my first year as new principal was to complete and introduce the new report card system to the school community. The new report card format was the culmination of much collaboration from teachers, administrators, students and parents. The report card combines the philosophy of standards-based grading and traditional letter grades. The resulting product gives an accurate, detailed overview of a student's progress toward the standards and their development as a member of the classroom and school community.

Rtl

Creating a formal Response to Intervention (RTI) program has had great impact on student achievement. Rtl was started in the middle school and has become a school-wide program. Assessment data is analyzed and the learning needs of each child are discussed. This information allowed us to develop a formal Response to Intervention program and Title I program.

Response to Intervention aims to meet the needs of struggling students through a pyramid of interventions, collaborative team problem solving, and data for monitoring student progress, and customized interventions, which conveys that all students can learn, effectively master educational requirements, and become proficient learners.

Understanding Response to Intervention
Solution-Tree Press 2008

Restructuring Administration

During my third year in the Fremont School District, My role as Middle School Principal was changed to PK-8 Principal. My goal was to treat this new responsibility as if it were my first year here at Ellis School. The restructuring of the Ellis School Administration included the addition of an Assistant Principal and Special Education Coordinator. We were very pleased to have Douglas Totten, Assistant Principal, and Sarah Krebs, Special Education Coordinator, join the Administrative team at Ellis School. This year we were fortunate to have John R. Bridle take over as assistant principal when Mr. Totten took another job closer to his home.

Academic Achievement

Ellis School made AYP (Annual Yearly Progress) for the 2011-2012 school year in Reading according to the New Hampshire Department of Education. We are thrilled with this achievement. Also, our scores have dramatically improved in Math. We were slightly below our index scores to make it as a whole school in Math. The AYP results are broken down into categories. For Ellis our categories are; White population, Economically Disadvantaged and Educational Disability. We meet requirements in 2 out of 3 subgroups in Math.

Treasures

We implemented a new reading program to insure a uniform and scientifically research-based instructional approach. The need for the reading program was not based on the ability of our teachers to deliver excellent reading instruction to our students, as our teachers have been and will continue to deliver highly qualified instruction based on best practices. However, the reading program makes reading instruction more student centered. As opposed to our students going from grade to grade through Ellis School being exposed to different styles and approaches to reading instruction based on teacher expertise, teachers use a reading program that will unify instruction for all grades. This will give each and every student the same approach to reading instruction, no matter their grade level or teacher.

It seems like yesterday that I started my tenure here at Ellis School. It is a privilege to work with a staff, both in Ellis School and at the SAU office, who have the best interest of the students and the school in mind. Thank you for your continued support of the Ellis School.

Respectfully submitted,

John Safina
Ellis School Principal