

# St. Marys City School District 2014 Strategic Plan

The St. Marys City Schools superintendent, a representative board of education member and the district treasurer joined with staff and community members to participate in a process to create a three- to five-year strategic plan for the district. Board of Education member Ronda Shelby and Superintendent Shawn Brown served on the Design Team. They joined with Core Team members who met on Thursdays in March 2014. Ohio School Boards Association Director of School Board Services Kathy LaSota and Senior School Board Services Consultant Dr. Richard J. Caster facilitated the month-long process.



## Vision/Mission Statement

**St. Marys City Schools — Dedicated to meet the individual needs of all students; committed to be a superior educational provider.**

## Belief Statements

1. We believe learning never ends.
2. We believe there must be respect for all.
3. We believe every child deserves the opportunity to be successful.
4. We believe teaching and learning must take place in a safe and secure environment.
5. We believe in empowering our students to be innovative thinkers.
6. We believe that the unity of the school, family and community nurtures the development of a child and creates responsible citizens.
7. We believe that education must be challenging and diversified.
8. We believe progress requires, and makes necessary, change.
9. We believe all people are unique and have value.
10. We believe together we can achieve excellence.

### Core Team

#### Community members

Tim Eberle  
Scott Fannon  
Bill Huber  
Joan Leffel  
Shelly Liette  
Jen Vorhess  
Tom Vorhess  
Rhonda Shelby

#### School personnel

Greg Adams  
Shawn Brown  
Lisa Elson  
Kimberli Glass  
Dan Grothouse  
Kelly Huber  
Kim Irons  
Kathy Jeffries  
Laura Koenig  
Kyle Menchhofer  
Mary Miller

#### Nathan Overley

Cary Roehm  
Bill Ruane  
Sue Sherman  
Tom Sommer

#### Students

Colin Burke  
Abby Wilker

Process facilitators: Kathy LaSota  
and Dr. Richard J. Caster, OSBA



# Strategic Goals

## Priority: Community perceptions and involvement

**Goal:** Develop and nurture a strong school/community partnership.

- We consistently evaluate the need for integrated committee development.
- We consistently evaluate and promote methods of two-way communication.
- Our community is pleased with the school system.
- Community, business and industry contribute to educational enhancements in the district.
- We have a well-respected school leadership team.
- We have a well-informed community regarding daily school operations.

### Strategies

1. Create a multimedia communication plan, including all social media, School Messenger, open public discussions, email and snail mail.
2. Hold town-hall meetings on a regular basis.
3. Create a community-based PR team.
4. Hold community days (tours of buildings).
5. Research strategies for community engagement in other districts.
6. Create an Outreach Committee to build business partnerships.
7. Evaluate the customer service expectations and create an expectation for all staff to provide excellent customer service.

Action Team members: Jen Vorhees, team leader; Colin Burke, student; Tim Eberle, community member; Lisa Elson, school administrator; Lance Ibrahim, community member; and April Johns, school employee

## Priority: Parent involvement

**Goal:** Engage families to support children's education and their overall well-being.

- There is a decrease in student discipline incidents.
- There is an increase in homework completion.
- Parents know where to find information.
- Parents are present in the school buildings.
- Student achievement has improved.
- Teachers have support in the classroom.

### Strategies

1. Have mental health care on-site for students.
2. Create a parent advisory group for each building.
3. Increase afternoon and evening offerings.

Action Team members: Joni Leffel, community member, team leader; Laura Koennig, school employee; Kelly Huber, school employee; Kim Glass, school employee; and Mary Miller, school administrator

## Priority: Meeting the individual needs of all students

**Goal:** Enhance and expand the curriculum and provide diverse opportunities for all students.

- Students graduate career- and college-ready.
- Students have an understanding of local and global differences (well-rounded, widened perspective)
- Students acclimate themselves to technological advances.
- Graduates are community-minded, involved and thoughtful citizens.

### Strategies

1. Collaborate with community organizations to allow students to visit.
2. Perform gap analysis on curriculum on a regular basis — evaluate curriculum.
3. Track students post-graduation.
4. Restore fallen courses.
5. Implement one-to-one technology grades for grades three to 12.
6. Implement a nine-week college/career exploration course.
7. Institute a senior project requirement.

Action Team members: Kathy Jeffries, team leader; Greg Adams, school employee; Kim Irons, school employee; Cary Roehm, school employee; Bill Ruane, school administrator; Ronda Shelby, board of education member; Sue Sherman, school administrator; Abby Wilker, student; Scott Newcomb, school employee; Bill Cheslock, school counselor; Paul Sadler, school employee; and Lindi Cisco, student

## Priority: Limited resources and capacity

**Goal:** Facilitate the development of resources and creative solutions to support and to enhance educational opportunities.

- We actively pursue alternative revenue streams and grants.
- We regularly benchmark our expenses and revenue streams.
- Our community has a better understanding of school funding and the district's needs.

### Strategies

1. Create a districtwide process for writing and managing grants.
2. Create a districtwide branded initiative to allow parents and others to contribute.
3. Create a rewards and recognition program for cost-savings suggestions.
4. Develop options to increase revenue.

Action Team members: Thomas S. Sommer, treasurer, team leader; Dan Grothaus, school employee; Nathan Overley, school employee; Scott Fannon, school employee; Bill Huber, community member; Shelly Liette, community member; and Tom Vorhees, community member