

Blue Ridge CUSD 18

Mission Statement

Blue Ridge Community Unit School District 18, in partnership with our students, parents, and the community, will promote individual and shared excellence for all students by providing every child the opportunity for a quality education in a safe, supportive learning environment in order to cultivate the knowledge and skills that will enable them to become life-long learners and productive, well balanced citizens.

Belief Statement

We believe the following:

Each student deserves the educational opportunity to realize his/her worth and to achieve full potential as a productive citizen.

Parents and students share responsibility with the school district for student learning.

Our school is one of the foundations of our community. The school, the family and the entire community must work together to develop and maintain a safe, structured, positive environment for educating all students.

Individuals learn in different ways and at different rates.

True self-esteem is developed through meaningful achievement/accomplishments.

We should strive to continually improve in a way that maximizes life-long learning.

We should conduct ourselves in such a manner as to attract and keep outstanding personnel.

Blue Ridge CUSD 18
2016-2019 Strategic Planning Goals
UPDATED October 2018

Overarching Goals:

Action	Action Manager	Team	Results/Timeline	Evaluation/Product	Budget	Status/Add'l Info or Ideas
Celebrate the Good	Superintendent	Principals, Dept. Heads, ADs, Coaches	Plan in 15/16, implement in 16/17 through 17/18	Recommendation Report to the Board, and Implementation Report to the Board	TBD	-Held BR Connect – 3/7/17; 3/13/2018 -Student recognitions done and ongoing
Improve image of Blue Ridge	Superintendent	Principals, Dept. Heads, ADs, Coaches	Plan in 15/16, implement in 16/17 through 17/18	Recommendation Report to the Board, and Implementation Report to the Board	TBD	-Promote positive events/activities/accomplishments -Sent community mailer – 8/2017; 3/2018, 8/2018 -SW spoke to dist. Personnel, community groups in spring 2016; continue through media/email/other communications; met with Bellflower Lions Club spring 2017
Develop culture that values student academic success and activity participation	Superintendent	Principals, Dept. Heads, ADs, Coaches	Plan in 15/16, implement in 16/17 through 17/18	Recommendation Report to the Board, and Implementation Report to the Board	\$500	-Beginning of the Year P/T/S conference to jointly set Student Goals used in Fall 2016; will continue. Prof. Dev. Planned for teachers this August to further promote its use. -Recognized students who earn service designation on transcripts in May 2016; will continue -Parent University sessions held in FY17 and FY18. Redesigned for 2018-19 to help boost participation.

Curriculum:

Action	Action Manager	Team	Results/Timeline	Evaluation/Product	Budget	Status/Add'l Info or ideas
Continue curriculum alignment with New Illinois Learning Standards in Science and Social Studies	Superintendent	Principals, Curriculum Committee, Technology Coordinator	Science – Began 14/15 continue through 16/17 and 17/18; Social Studies – Begin 16/17 continue through 17/18	Curriculum Guide/for subject areas including topics covered, any associated readings and special activities, instructional materials, assessments, technology and other supports needed	\$4000 per year for planning; Implementation Costs TBD	ROE consultants work with K-8 for ELA, K-12 SS, and K-12 math. science alignment work will resume in 18/19. Collaborated with Parkland College for summer 2017 and 2018 science PD for teachers. Working with Parkland to offer Leadership training for all district personnel in 18/19. New Social Studies curriculum adopted for 2018-19.
Gifted Programs – enhance opportunities at the high school	HS Principal	HS School Improvement Team	Plan in 15/16, implement in 16/17 through 17/18	Recommendation Report to the Board, and Implementation Report to the Board		<p>Blue Ridge High School offers the following opportunities for gifted students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weighted Credit is given in Advanced Biology, AP Calculus, Chemistry II, and Spanish IV • Students can take Advanced On-Line Classes through our Alternative School Curriculum • Some students may take Courses at Parkland College • Students may take Courses at the Bloomington Area Career Center • Students may participate in Scholastic Bowl • There are Writing Contests through the American Legion, Etc. • There is the ability to use On-Line Resources to find more challenging projects through the regular curriculum. • Board approved request from 3 HS students to pay cost for Calculus through Illinois Virtual School. <p>Opportunities for gifted students are also discussed and revisited during meetings of the Advisory Council, RTI, and School Improvement Planning Committees.</p> <p>A plan to allow for the acceleration of high achieving students has been developed and put in place for the 2018-19 school year. We are implementing the Acceleration Act on July 1, 2018. Acceleration teams at each building will complete the assessment and screening process.</p>

Career Prep – support and enhance current programs	JH and HS Principal	Guidance Counselors; CTE Teachers	Plan in 15/16, implement in 16/17 through 17/18	Recommendation Report to the Board, and Implementation Report to the Board	TBD	Ongoing. ISBE has new “PACE” standards addressed in 2017-18 SIPs. ESSA has new accountability features we are implementing in 2018-19.
Continue social-emotional education	Principals	Principals, Guidance Counselors, TCSEA Personnel	Review social emotional programs annually	Recommendation Report to the Board, and Implementation Report to the Board – given to Board Feb. 2017	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering Committee met in 2017 and 2018 with Board and Parent Reps, TCSEA, Guidance Counselors to review discipline code, bullying prevention, and social emotional programs. Will meet annually to review and update as needed. • K-8 Social/Emotional Learning (SEL) implemented 17-18 and continuing • BR works with DeWitt Children’s Mental Health Forum since July 2017 • JH/HS Survey Students to ensure all have a connection with someone in the school. Done in 17-18 and will continue. • Plan for possible implementation of a mental health screener. Awaiting further guidance from state of Illinois.

Reduce truancy	Principals	Principals, Guidance Couns., ROE Truancy Personnel	Plan in 15/16, implement in 16/17 through 17/18	Recommendation Report to the Board, and Implementation Report to the Board – Truancy Plan provided below.	TBD	Beginning 17-18, use auto-generated attendance letter through Skyward. Letters will be reviewed by the office/principal before being sent out. Sending out positive messages on attendance through social media and district communications.
Explore readiness for Accreditation (AdvancED)	Superintendent	Superintendent, Principals, Dept. Heads, Faculty and Staff	1 day-Readiness visit by AdvancED in 17/18	Readiness Report from AdvancED	\$3500 for fees, Add'l for cost of visit	The district leadership team completed the Readiness Diagnostic in fall 2017. AdvancED conducted 1-day in Jan. 2018 and provided feedback. Committee recommends conducting full accreditation visit for fall 2019.

*Truancy Reduction Plan:

What is in place? Letters sent home when a student nears 10 unexcused absences. Occasional phone calls are made to ask about the truant student. The schools have a very good relationship with the ROE Truancy Officer. He makes home visits to truant students, offers incentives for them to attend, and explains realistic consequences such as not graduating, finding jobs/careers, and the corrections system. The school discusses truant students in the RTI (Response to Intervention) meetings at each of the schools, prioritize where student is falling behind the most in order to give extra help, and encourage classroom teachers to call home as well.

Goals for the future: Continue current methods outlined above. Add more positive parent contacts. Encourage teachers to make contacts early in the year for students who have been truant in the past. Counselors, principals, and secretaries will also make contacts throughout the year. Contacts will include praise for good work/effort, inquiry about why a student is absent, concern for illness, encouragement to pick up homework if applicable, encouragement for the student to spend time before or after school talking with teachers about work from the absence, encouragement for the parent to always call into the office when the student will be absent, and always strive to focus on the positive. Teachers will be encouraged to develop classroom programs that support improved attendance overall.

Extracurricular/Activities:

Action	Action Manager	Team	Results/Timeline	Evaluation/Product	Budget	Status/Add'l Info
Develop good relationships with feeder programs	Athletic Directors	ADs, Coaches, Sponsors, Principals	Plan developed and implemented 2016: Plan: Have head coaches in each sport implement basic concepts and strategies to instill uniformly throughout the feeder programs on up. Encourage feeder programs and coaches to participate in the assistance of summer camps and workouts (if applicable through IHSA guidelines). Have the head coaches promote the lower levels for each sport at some point throughout the year.	Recommendation Report to the Board, and Implementation Report to the Board	TBD	Communication from the school side has increased. Will continue.
Recruit and retain good coaches	Athletic Directors	ADs, Coaches, Sponsors, Principals	Plan developed and implemented 2016: Possibly offer incentives for veteran coaches with a good track record and history at Blue Ridge (i.e. small monetary stipend for all the off season and summer time put in out of the sport season). When there are teaching openings try to match that with teachers who have some experience (3 yrs. +) that could contribute to coaching openings that have had successful history (prior teaching/coaching experience. Student teaching included. As a district help lift up our extracurricular/coaching staff rather than focus on some of the negativity that seems to overshadow the positives.	Recommendation Report to the Board, and Implementation Report to the Board	TBD	Trying to match teaching openings with coaching openings where possible. Positivity is an ongoing goal.
Provide professional development for coaches	Athletic Directors	ADs, Coaches, Sponsors, Principals	Plan developed and implementation began 2016: Encourage our extracurricular staff to stay up to date in their content/sport area by helping with coaching clinic fees or graduate work. Encourage the participation of webinars or continuing education in their focus area. Promote collaboration with other professionals and peers in the same areas.	Recommendation Report to the Board, and Implementation Report to the Board	TBD	Ongoing

Increase participation in student activities	Athletic Directors	ADs, Coaches, Sponsors, Boosters, Principals	Plan developed and implementation began 2016: Winning. Students want to play for a winning program. A winning program usually will get more students out. More students out equals competition and depth. Offer multiple levels (Frosh, JV, and Varsity.) in each sport so everyone has an opportunity to work on their skills and grow and possibly contribute at the varsity level. Think about expanding our extracurricular events that might match our student population and demographics (i.e. Bass Fishing, Cross Country, Chess Club, and Girls Bowling?). Possibly hire one more assistant coach in certain sports (if the numbers support) to focus on students more individually. I.E. Three paid volleyball, soccer, basketball, baseball and softball coach.	Recommendation Report to the Board, and Implementation Report to the Board.	TBD	Ongoing. Board approved recommendations to expand programs to include Bass Fishing at the HS in spring 2018, and Softball at the JH beginning fall 2018.
Promote successes in local media (i.e., newspapers, radio, etc.)	Athletic Directors	ADs, Coaches, Sponsors, Boosters, Principals	Plan developed and implementation began 2016: This is happening already in local and more mainstream papers. We have a district Facebook and booster club page that promotes success. Some programs are using twitter and/or other social media devices as promotion as well. There are recruiting agents and tools to help with the exposure of student athletes as well.	Recommendation Report to the Board, and Implementation Report to the Board	No cost	Ongoing

Finance:

Action	Action Manager	Team	Results/Timeline	Evaluation/Product	Budget	Status/Add'l Info
Develop a partnership with Farmer City to develop a future TIF District	Superintendent	Superintendent, Board of Education	Collaborate with City of FC in 2015-16 going forward	TIF Agreement between District and City of FC	TBD	City of FC will hold the Joint Review Board on Oct. 19. to create FC Forward TIF in next few months. Board is working with City of FC to generate an agreement.

Support efforts in DeWitt and McLean Counties to put 1% County School Facility Sales Tax on the ballot	Superintendent	Superintendent, Board of Education	Work with other Districts in DeWitt and McLean Counties to inform the public on the CSFT if it becomes a ballot initiative.	Plan TBA if CSFT is put on the ballot in either county.	TBD	Must be initiated by school district(s) with 51% or more of students in the county. No action on this.
Continue to identify areas to contain or reduce costs within the District	Superintendent	Superintendent, Principals, Department Heads	Continue in 2015-16 going forward to monitor costs, get bids/quotes for materials and services, and look for cost-effective ways to achieve goals.	Ongoing financial oversight by Board of Education through established methods	TBD	Continue to monitor state budget and funding process closely and respond accordingly. If necessary, implement financial crisis plan.

Facilities and Security:

Action	Action Manager	Team	Results/Timeline	Evaluation/Product	Budget	Status/Add'l Info
Upgrade security camera systems – low light cameras, motion sensors, online access for law enforcement	Technology Coordinator	Technology Coordinator, O&M Director, School Resource Officer	Develop plan in 2015-16, Implement 2016-17	Recommendation Report to the Board, and Implementation Report to the Board	\$75,000	Cameras upgraded at Schneider Summer 2017; HS in 2018, and will be done at JH in 2019.
Ensure handicap doors at facility entrances work appropriately	O&M Director	O&M Director, Architect	Develop plan in 2015-16, Implement 2016-17	Recommendation Report to the Board, and Implementation Report to the Board	\$6000	Completed work on HS Main entry Spring 2018.
Provide secure access to Schneider including asbestos abatement, secure access to BRHS, and secure alternative for HS students to get lunch.	Superintendent	Superintendent, Principals, O&M Director, Architect	Develop plan in 2015-16, Implement 2016-17	Recommendation Report to the Board, and Implementation Report to the Board	TBD	Work at Schneider completed Sept. 2017. Secure connection for HS students to go to Schneider Cafeteria for lunch is tabled for now due to high cost of options.



Blue Ridge CUSD 18

Goals for Action Planning

For DeWitt County Children's Mental Health Forum

Goal: Address student social-emotional development					
Activity	Person(s) Responsible	Timeline	Budget	Evaluation	Status/Add'l Information
Survey to identify student connections within the schools	School Counselors, Principals	Administer survey within the first quarter of school	No additional funds needed	Results of survey; follow-up activities to ensure students have connections	Initially done in spring 2017. Done again in fall 2017. Will continue to do annually.
Implement SEL Curriculum K-6 (selected 3/17)	School Counselors, Principals	2017-18 school year	\$10,000 for materials	Review at end of year for efficacy using office referrals, observations, and teacher feedback	Implemented 2017-18. 2017-18 Parent University program highlighted the new SEL Curriculum and importance of the standards.
Implement mental health screener	School Counselors, School Psychologist, Principals	In 2017-18, identify research-based screener and pilot test with one grade level; In 2018-2018, expand screener to additional grade levels	TBD – cost of screener, personnel to administer, and personnel to follow-up with families of students identified as needing supports	Results of screener, and documentation of follow-up activities	Waiting on development of new state rules