

# Raymond J. Grey Junior High School

## *School Improvement Plan 2008 – 2009*



Raymond J. Grey Junior High School  
16 Charter Road  
Acton, Massachusetts  
Principal: Craig Hardimon  
Assistant Principals: Andrew Shen, Allison Warren  
June, 2008

1) **Examine new scheduling structures for RJG that continue to ensure high academic standards, appropriate supervision, and a safe and comfortable learning environment for teaching and learning.**

a) **Statement of the Situation:**

To ensure that the RJG is meeting the needs of all students, the faculty has committed to re-examining the RJG scheduling structure. Keeping in mind that students must be appropriately supervised, challenged and scheduled within a comfortable student-centered atmosphere, this process is viewed as a challenge and an opportunity.

b) **Strategies:**

**With consultation:**

- i) Review core values of school and district
- ii) Review pros and cons of current schedule model
- iii) Consider building-based scheduling alternatives for FY10 school year
- iv) Create and prioritize a list of scheduling needs
- v) Create and prioritize teaming issues
- vi) Develop a number of scheduling structures, while making sure we are working in the best interest of staff and students.
- vii) Continue to evaluate all RJG communication structures during the scheduling process.

c) **Outcomes:**

- i) Develop recommendations and implications for FY10 school year pertaining to identified goal areas.
- ii) Identify alternate programmatic and scheduling models for FY10
- iii) Identify fiscal implications for FY10.

d) **Responsible Parties:**

Craig Hardimon, Andrew Shen, Allison Warren, RJG Leadership Team, RJG Scheduling Committee, Pupil Services Staff

## **2) Continue to promote school safety within a positive school culture and climate.**

### **a) Statement of the Situation:**

Promoting a positive school culture and climate requires that we support our students in developing skills and strategies to stay healthy and safe, able to focus on academic achievement. For the 2008-2009 school year, the RJG staff has identified three specific areas of focus:

Now and in the future, it is expected that children and teens will continue to use the Internet for socializing more and more. While parents can limit the amount of time their children spend on the Internet, in truth, the Internet has become a way of life. As such, teaching safety strategies for the Internet has become just as important as teaching any other traditional life skill.

Teaching students skills for identifying and addressing incidents of bullying, teasing and harassment continues to be a focus at RJG. In the upcoming year, faculty members will select a group of students with leadership/ambassador abilities to participate in specialized training at the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC). Together, students and staff will be trained to identify situations where bullying and teasing occurs as well as strategies for handling these situations.

Finally, managing multiple responsibilities and daily stressors can be hard on students. Staying on top of academic requirements, participating in extra-curricular clubs and activities, while maintaining friendships are all part of a young adolescent's day. Informative communication is vital to an environment that supports our students in making good choices related to school, and problem solving various situations that arise. Strategies for helping our students meet their own stress management and wellness needs, as well as developing strategies for managing a range of social situations is a focus for the upcoming year.

### **b) Strategies:**

- i) Maximize the commitment to internet safety, stress management and bullying by educating students:**
  - (1) Schedule relevant student assemblies.**
  - (2) Involve the Student Administration Advisory Board (SAAB) to generate ideas for promoting student leadership.**
  - (3) Develop practical ideas for reducing student stress throughout the year; homework breaks, etc.**
  
- ii) Maximize the commitment to internet safety, stress management and bullying by continuing to educate parents and staff**
  - (1) to assist with programmatic planning**
  - (2) continue to access MARC and the services of Elizabeth Englander**

### **c) Outcomes:**

i) Summarize implications for FY10 school year pertaining to identified goal areas.

**d) Responsible Parties:**

Craig Hardimon, Andrew Shen, Allison Warren, RJG Leadership Team, Pupil Services Staff

**3) Continue to Enhance Curriculum and Instruction for RJG Students and consider changes based on community and building needs**

**a) Statement of the Situation:**

As part of the RJG educational experience, the RJG staff is committed to an on-going process of curriculum planning, with the goal of fostering continuous improvement of student achievement. During the 2008-2009 school year, curricular offerings in all departments will be reviewed, considering adjustments based on our core school values. As part of this process, we continue to be committed to a JHS curriculum that values diversity and global awareness.

**b) Strategies:**

- i) Continue to have conversations about curriculum articulation, grades 7-12, to facilitate curricular coordination.
- ii) Continue to integrate technology within content instruction in all areas.
- iii) Continue to identify academic support programs for those students in need (regular and special education), including but not limited to RTI, Sheltered Immersion for LEP students, etc.
- iv) Redefine current world language program/curriculum to include mandarin studies.
- v) To begin the study of mandarin Chinese for FY10 (to develop simple conversational skills through oral practice and written exercise, to develop an understanding of Asian culture: daily life, history, literature and the arts).
- vi) Consider building-based scheduling alternatives for '08-'09 school year that incorporate mandarin studies.
- vii) Schedule relevant Parent/Guardian Forum

**c) Outcomes:**

- i) Develop recommendations and implications for FY10 school year pertaining to identified goal areas.
- ii) Identify necessary programmatic/scheduling models for FY10
- iii) Identify fiscal implications for FY10.

**d) Responsible Parties:**

Craig Hardimon, Andrew Shen, Allison Warren, RJG Leadership Team, RJG Scheduling Committee, Pupil Services Staff