



OLIVET COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

STRATEGIC PLAN 2007-2011

MISSION STATEMENT

“Olivet Community Schools is committed to providing a caring and academically challenging environment that develops responsible citizens prepared to meet the changing demands of our society.”

VALUE STATEMENT

Values are the link between what we feel and what we do. The most powerful way to instill core values is through example.

The following values define Olivet Community Schools:

We will treat others with RESPECT:

To honor the worth of others is the way to earn and show respect. Respect is acknowledgement of the feelings, interests and diversity of others. Those who show respect, treat others the way they would want to be treated.

We will act with HONESTY:

An honest person is trustworthy and is truthful in thoughts, words, and actions. To trust and be trusted provides the foundation necessary for healthy relationships.

We will ACT RESPONSIBLY:

Responsible people recognize the needs around them and take action to meet those needs. They are dependable, accountable, humble, determined, and have a sense of purpose.

We will treat people with KINDNESS:

Kindness is the act of helping others, even at the expense of one's own interests. As we give to others, we strengthen ourselves; as we receive from others, we allow them to grow. Kindness is being compassionate, particularly to those who may be overlooked.

*People with integrity are respectful, honest, responsible, and kind.
To have integrity earns trust and inspires faith in others.*

ALL PEOPLE HAVE VALUE, PURPOSE, UNIQUE POTENTIAL, AND THE ABILITY TO LEARN

BELIEF STATEMENT

We recognize that beliefs shape our behavior and guide our actions.

The following beliefs define Olivet Community Schools:

Student Learning

- **All students can learn.**
- Our written, taught, and assessed **curriculum** is based on **state standards** while continuing to incorporate proven research.
- Performance is enhanced with high **expectations**, appropriate **support**, and **accountability** for results.
- Student learning increases when **academic and behavioral expectations** are clearly expressed.
- The primary goal of **assessment and evaluation** is to **increase student learning**.
- Instructional practice is based on the premise that **students learn at different rates and in different ways**.
- It is essential to nurture **curiosity and a passion to learn**. Individuals who possess these qualities will be **lifelong learners**.
- Students are more successful when they feel **connected, valued, and can contribute** to the collective goals of the school.
- Students need to accept **responsibility** and **ownership** for their learning, decisions, and actions.
- The arts, athletics, and other activities teach critically important skills such as **leadership, teamwork, communication, confidence, self-discipline, and selflessness**.
- It is essential that learners **ask questions, reflect** on experiences, **seek feedback**, and **assess** progress toward individual goals.
- Teachers recognize that student learning occurs with **effective teaching**.
- It is important that students be **versatile**, well rounded, able to learn new skills, and able to adapt to change.

School Environment

- Well-maintained **facilities** reflect pride in the school while meeting the needs of students and the community.
- As lifelong learners, our staff members are committed to **continued professional development**.
- Our schools are professional learning communities characterized by the **shared purpose of teaching and learning through collaborative activity and collective responsibility**.
- For a student to grow academically and socially, they must feel **physically and emotionally safe**.
- Students respond with pride, enthusiasm, and increased productivity when personal **achievements are recognized**.
- **Structure** creates security, allowing students to focus on learning.
- School **time and resources** are responsibly utilized to benefit students.
- **Positive relationships** are based on mutual trust.
- **Effective communication** is collaborative, direct, clear, and includes the appropriate people.

Parental/Community Support

- **Parents are essential partners** in decisions that affect their children.
- It is important for parents and community members to be positive **mentors and role models**.
- The people of our community develop a sense of pride and success when they feel **connected, valued, and have the opportunity to contribute** to the collective goals of our school.
- Learning is most effective when staff, parents, and students **work together** toward **common goals**.
- It is essential to maintain and develop positive **relationships with our community**.
- **Community resources** are used to strengthen schools, families, and student learning.
- **Effective schools** need strong communities and strong communities need effective schools.

VISION STATEMENT

Olivet Community Schools seeks to create an exemplary school that provides a challenging and balanced curriculum. In a supportive and collaborative learning environment, we will strive to develop individuals with the necessary skills and experiences to learn independently, enjoy learning, and demonstrate a strong work ethic. As responsible, productive citizens, they will reach beyond our community to contribute positively to their families, employers, and the larger society.

Curriculum and Instruction for Student Learning

Olivet Community Schools strives to be an exemplary school. As an exemplary school, we must:

- Provide curriculum and instruction guided by **specific, clearly stated, and challenging goals** for each grade level and course.
- **Align the scope and sequence** of the curriculum from grade to grade and subject to subject, allowing teachers to understand the relationship of their teaching assignments to the rest of the curriculum.
- Employ instructional strategies that result in **differentiated instruction** addressing individual learning styles and rates.
- Regularly involve students in active inquiry to **ensure student engagement with essential knowledge**, understanding, and skills.
- Enable students to broaden their perspectives in order to **understand and appreciate diverse cultures** within and beyond the school and community.
- Closely **monitor the academic progress of each student** and provide support and/or additional learning opportunities as appropriate.
- Provide frequent and regular opportunities for **staff to work collaboratively** to plan for instruction, review student work, and make interdisciplinary connections.
- Provide **comprehensive and consistent data-driven professional development** that reflects knowledge of content, instructional strategies and student achievement.

Environment

The overall physical and emotional wellness of staff and students is a priority for exemplary schools. To this end, Olivet Community Schools will ensure:

- **All people** will be treated with dignity and respect because they **have intrinsic purpose and value**.
- A healthy and viable climate by maintaining and nurturing the school environment by encouraging **open, honest, and direct communication**.
- A continual effort to develop a more culturally diverse student and staff population by making sure **all people feel welcomed and accepted** into our school community.
- A **positive mind set toward change** and growth while holding on to the wisdom of past experience.
- All those who walk through our doors will be **positively affected by the “Olivet Way”**.

Collaborative Partnerships

Exemplary schools recognize the importance of establishing effective partnerships. At Olivet Community Schools, collaborative partnerships:

- Will **foster classrooms that are cooperative learning environments**.
- Include **professional learning communities and educational partnerships** among staff, other schools, and institutions of higher learning.
- Include active **parental, alumni, community, and staff involvement** to support the education of students.

Technology

An exemplary school recognizes the important role that technology plays in the school and in society. To foster its use, we will:

- **Acquire and maintain uniform, up-to-date technology** throughout the district.
- **Integrate technology** into curriculum and instruction to enhance learning.
- **Enable all students to use technology** in their every day lives.
- Continually **train staff** to maximize the efficient use of available technology.

Resource Allocation

In an exemplary school, resources are allocated wisely. To do this, we must:

- Realize that **people are the single, greatest resource** for any school, not money or materials.
- Provide learning materials, technology, and equipment as a means to **support student learning**.
- **Continually assess, maintain, and improve our facilities** in relationship to student enrollment as well as program, curricular, and community needs.
- Ensure that **assets are allocated responsibly**.
- Have **facilities that reflect the excellence and pride** of Olivet Community Schools.

GOALS

GOALS WILL BE RE-EVALUATED ANNUALLY

All students will achieve proficiency in language arts, math, science, and social studies as measured by the MEAP, MME, and MiAccess.



All students will graduate prepared to either continue their education or enter the work force.



Create and maintain an environment of kindness where students, staff, and parents are respectful, honest, and responsible.



Provide up-to-date technology for all classrooms and the necessary training for staff to integrate it effectively into the curriculum.



Maintain, renovate, and expand facilities and infrastructure as recommended by a facility planning committee.

Olivet Community Schools

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This Strategic Plan was developed by a committee of 30 representative staff, parents, and students over a seven month period. It includes comments, feedback, and suggestions sought from the school community.