

Central School

Annual Report 2023

Simsbury Public Schools
Simsbury, Connecticut



The Central School community nurtures the whole child: the mind, body, character, and creativity of each student. We offer a rich and rigorous curriculum, set high expectations, celebrate diversity, and promote a love of learning. Through partnerships connecting educators, families, and students, we create a strong foundation for public service and lifelong learning in an ever changing global society.

Effort Matters: "THINK YOU CAN . . . WORK HARD . . . GET SMART!"
- Jeff Howard

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Introduction and Purpose of our School Annual Report

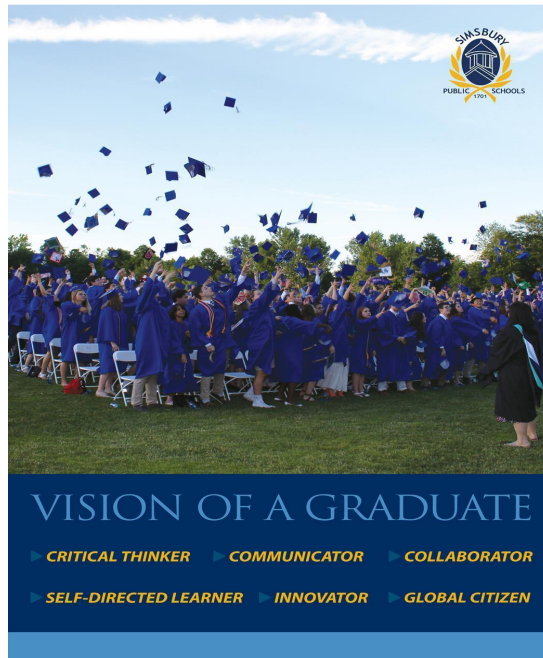
The Simsbury Public Schools values continuous improvement. Each fall, Central School develops a strategic plan - an action plan inclusive of Simsbury Public Schools' strategic goals (2019-2024), Vision of a Graduate, information about Central School, and school improvement indicators for the school year. The goals and benchmarks set forth in this school's strategic plan were established following a cautious analysis of state and district student performance data collected during an unprecedented year, as well as staff and school community input. In addition, the goals are aligned with the [Simsbury Public Schools Strategic Plan](#). Throughout the year, teachers work in collaborative teams to assess student achievement with multiple indicators, monitor student progress, and adjust/refine instructional practices accordingly. Professional development supports our improvement in our targeted areas. This document is a concluding analysis of our progress toward these goals hence called Central School's Annual Report. We are excited to celebrate our results with you!

Warm regards,
Beth Hennessy
Principal, Central School
Simsbury, Connecticut

Information about Central School

Central School is a mid-sized, community-based school. Built in 1913 and enrolled on the National Register of Historic Places, Central is the oldest school in Simsbury. Renovation and new construction took place in 1997. We concluded the year-long 100th Anniversary of Central School in June, 2013 with many events that recognized the deep history of the school and community. Our shared memories will carry us through for the next 100 years at Central School. The theme at Central School is Learning the Ropes for the Voyage of Life – reflecting our belief in meeting the needs of the whole child. The faculty is committed to a rigorous instructional program that fosters and enhances the development of a community of learners within which students learn to set and achieve high standards. As stated in the Vision Statement, the staff and parent community believe in the “whole child” and reinforce the six themes of character displayed in the front lobby on a daily basis, as well as through the “Central Sails” Character Education Program. Central School is a close and connected neighborhood school. It has a reputation for being a caring community with a focus on the whole child. Success and effort are celebrated at Central School as each child works to meet standards and gain proficiency in areas outlined in the benchmarks for literacy, mathematics, and in content areas. Additionally, our strong home/school partnership has always been a cornerstone for the success of our learners, highlighting one of Simsbury’s Core Beliefs: “We believe that family and community partnerships enhance and enrich the learning experiences for all students and staff.” Our school’s Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and our many community volunteers exemplify this core belief and are invaluable to our school’s strong culture and ongoing student achievement. Central School embraces a diverse population both culturally and socio-economically. For over forty years, Central School has augmented its student population through the Open Choice program which allows urban students from diverse backgrounds to attend our school. Both local and urban students have benefited from this association through the formation of friendships and through their exchange of ideas in class. We look forward to the continued enrichment of cultural and intellectual exchange this coming year. As a result of the cooperative efforts and collective talents of a dedicated faculty and staff, involved parents and families, and students, Central School is an accomplished school that provides a caring and supportive climate that nurtures the whole child.

Simsbury Public Schools ~ Vision of the Graduate



Critical Thinker

- Engage in problem solving, inquiry, and reflective thinking
- Develop compelling questions
- Analyze information to consider varied perspectives
- Evaluate information to reason and solve problems



Communicator

- Listen actively
- Lift conversations by asking and responding to questions
- Deliver clear, concise, accurate ideas through spoken and written language
- Demonstrate an awareness of audience by adjusting purposefully



Collaborator

- Perform a variety of roles and responsibilities
- Function interdependently and flexibly with others
- Seek and contribute feedback
- Embrace contradictions and divergent ideas to accomplish a common goal



Self-Directed Learner

- Take initiative and responsibility for learning and productivity
- Use “experts” and other resources to pursue goals
- Demonstrate resilience, optimism, and perseverance
- Accomplish tasks through self-advocacy, self-confidence, and a growth mindset



Innovator

- Empower creativity and develop skills
- Use a variety of techniques as part of a process to enhance outcomes
- View failure as an opportunity to learn, persevere, and show flexibility
- Challenge the status quo, push boundaries, and achieve growth



Global Citizen

- Exemplify empathy, compassion, and respect in interactions with others
- Consider diverse perspectives and cultures
- Act responsibly and ethically
- Recognize impact of actions and civic decisions

Simsbury Public Schools Strategic Plan Goals 2019-2024

Student Growth and Success: Simsbury Public Schools will engage all students in rigorous, dynamic, and relevant learning experiences, in alignment to the Simsbury Vision of the Graduate, in order to ensure student growth and achievement.

Compassionate and Connected School Culture: Simsbury Public Schools will engage our students and adults in an inclusive, responsive, and safe environment that fosters the development of empathetic, ethical, and resilient community members.

Premier Workforce: Simsbury Public Schools will hire, invest in, and retain passionate and exceptional staff who will contribute to a challenging, innovative, and collaborative culture defined by continuous improvement.

Sustainable and Strategic Investments: Simsbury Public Schools will identify and advocate for the needs of our school communities in innovative ways to support the success and growth of all students, ensure fiscal responsibility, and the long-term stability of the district.

***Board of Education
Adopted June 11, 2019***

*“If you go to work on your goals, your goals will go to work on you. If you
go to work on your plan, your plan will go to work on you.
Whatever good things we build end up building us.”*

~ Jim Rohn

Goal 1: Student Growth and Success
<i>Simsbury Public Schools will engage all students in rigorous, dynamic, and relevant learning experiences, in alignment to the Simsbury Vision of the Graduate, in order to ensure student growth and achievement.</i>
Central School’s Strategic Action Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Administrator: Take action steps directly from your one-pager (as they were written aligned with the strategic goals) ● Use Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings to identify students' response to instruction and to monitor growth and achievement relative to grade level standards. ● Accelerate student performance in math by implementation of a supplemental math block, professional development for teachers, and expansion of Math Intervention Program. ● Utilize coaches to deliver professional development, provide student centered coaching, and monitor growth and achievement across all tiers of instruction. ● Implement a building schedule that provides longer instructional blocks for content area teaching, supports Social Emotional Learning (SEL) instruction, and coordinates specialized instruction and intervention.
Performance Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Smarter Balanced Assessment Math and ELA grades 3-6 aggregate performance ● Next Generation Science Assessment (Grade 5)

SMART Goals: (Specific/Measurable/Aggressive yet Achievable/Relevant/Time-Bound)

Mathematics Expectations by June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● By June of 2023, 80% of students in grades 3-6 will meet or exceed the SBA Math benchmark.
Mathematics Results for 2022-2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In June of 2023, 75% of students in grades 3-6 met or exceeded the SBA Math benchmark.
Mathematics Next Steps for 2023-2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Central School Leadership Team will analyze action steps and make necessary adjustments to instructional practices. ● The Math coach will meet with grade level teams to identify priorities and goals for the 2023-2024 school year

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Math coach will continue to support the implementation of spiral review concepts • Teachers will continue to work collaboratively to plan with colleagues to address instructional needs.
<p>ELA Expectations by June</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By June of 2023, 83 % of students in grades 3-6 will meet or exceed the SBA ELA benchmark.
<p>ELA Results for 2022-2023</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In June of 2023, 74% of students in grades 3-6 met or exceeded the SBA ELA benchmark.
<p>ELA Next Steps for 2023-2024</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Central School Leadership Team will analyze prior action steps and make necessary adjustments to instructional practices in order to accelerate learning. • The Language Arts Consultant will meet with grade level teams to identify priorities and goals for the 2023-2024 school year. • Using the PLC format, teachers and coaches will analyze data and make instructional adjustments. • Teachers will continue to work collaboratively to plan with colleagues to address instructional needs.
<p>NGSS Expectations by June</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By June of 2023, 80% of students in grade 5 will meet or exceed the SBA Science benchmark.
<p>NGSS Results for 2022-2023</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In June of 2023, 53% of students in grades 3-6 met or exceeded the SBA Science benchmark.
<p>Science Next Steps for 2023-2024</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Central School Leadership Team will analyze action steps and make necessary adjustments to instructional practices in order to accelerate learning in science. • The district science coordinator will analyze assessment results and provide professional development to teachers. • Teachers will use formative assessments to monitor progress throughout the year.

Goal 2: Compassionate & Connected School Culture
<i>Simsbury Public Schools will engage our students and adults in an inclusive, responsive, and safe environment that fosters the development of empathetic, ethical, and resilient community members.</i>
Strategic Action Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reinforce and celebrate themes of good character through the <i>Central Sails</i> Character Education program. ● Be responsive to students’ needs by anchoring our work in the social and emotional CASEL competencies ● Address needs of students based on teacher feedback using informal feedback measures. ● Utilize the Character Education and Leadership Team to identify professional development opportunities for staff and programming/celebrations for students.
Performance Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Survey Results from parents and students ● Completion of action steps and outcomes as noted in strategic plan action steps ● Positive behavioral recognition at the building level

SMART Goals: (Specific/Measurable/Aggressive yet Achievable/Relevant/Time-Bound)

Compassionate and Connected School Culture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● By July 2023, analyze performance indicator data for trends, celebrations, concerns and next steps ● Greater than 90% of students will receive school-based positive behavioral recognition ● Fewer than 10% of students at the elementary level will not have required a Tier 2* behavior intervention
Compassionate and Connected School Culture Results for 2022-2023
<p>In July of 2023 parent and student survey results were analyzed. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adults in my child’s school know my child: 92% ● My child feels a sense of belonging at school: 87% ● My school has a welcoming environment: 88%

- I feel I belong at school-grade 4: 86%

In June of 2023 greater than 90% of students received a school-based recognition.

In June of 2023 less than 10% of students had a Tier 2 behavioral intervention.

Compassionate and Connected School Culture Next Steps for 2023-2024

- Continue to reinforce and celebrate themes of good character through the *Central Sails* Character Education program.
- Continue to implement practices/events to create a sense of belonging for students and parents.
- Continue to facilitate buildership practices to engage students in daily school events, including leadership opportunities for our 6th grade captains.
- Continue to use school resources to support students' behavioral needs.

*Tier 2 behavior intervention at the elementary level is defined by either an action/consequence taken by administrator and/or referral to the SIT process for behavior.

We look forward to developing our 2023-2024 strategic plan and sharing our successes and continuous improvement goals with you. **Thank you for partnering with us!**