Squadron Line School
Annual Report 2022-2023

Simsbury Public Schools
Simsbury, Connecticut

Meg Evans, Principal

Nancy Forsberg, Assistant Principal

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Introduction and Purpose of our Annual Report

The Simsbury Public Schools value continuous improvement. Each fall, Squadron Line School develops a strategic plan - an action plan inclusive of Simsbury Public Schools' strategic goals (2019-2024), Vision of a Graduate, information about Squadron Line, 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 Squadron Line School's Annual Report. We are excited to celebrate our results with you!

Warm regards,

Meg Evans
Principal

Nancy Forsberg
Assistant Principal

Information about Squadron Line School

At Squadron Line, we understand that if students are going to be successful, in addition to mastering a rigorous curriculum, they need to learn skills that will allow them to succeed in a rapidly changing society. We realize the importance of teaching the skills necessary so that our students can be effective critical thinkers, communicators, collaborators, self-directed learners, innovators, and global citizens. To do this important work, we infuse a Growth Mindset approach in all that we do (the belief that our abilities are not a fixed quantity that with hard work, effort, and persistence we can get smarter and use mistakes as an opportunity to grow).

Throughout the year we provide students numerous opportunities to demonstrate respect, responsibility and kindness towards themselves, their peers, and our community. Through class meetings, school celebrations, and proactive grade–level lessons, our SHINE character education program provides the entire school community with a common language regarding academic, behavioral, and civic expectations.

Squadron Line School proudly participates in the Hartford Region Open Choice Program. This wonderful opportunity is part of a statewide program that offers students the opportunity to attend public schools in suburban towns and suburban students the opportunity to attend public schools in Hartford at no cost to the student's family. Communication between families, teachers, and administrators remains constant to ensure an inclusive and positive experience for all students.

Continuous improvement is at the core of our work as a district and school community. We are committed to improving the academic achievement of all students. Teachers meet weekly as Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to share instructional strategies, review and refine lessons within units of study, and collectively analyze student work and assessments. Student centered data conversations are held throughout the year to analyze student performance and adjust instructional strategies and/or interventions as needed. Through open, reflective dialogue and continuous cycles of inquiry, staff members and administrators dedicate themselves to creating a learning environment that meets the needs of all students.

Squadron Line students succeed due to the strong support from family and community members. We recognize that student performance (academic, social, emotional, and behavioral) is maximized when there is active involvement from families and school community members. We are fortunate to have a long standing tradition of a collaborative partnership between the school and our dedicated Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO).

The success of Squadron Line School depends upon the collaborative efforts of the entire school community – students, teachers, administration, families, and community members. By working together, we create a community characterized by a meaningful and rigorous academic foundation that prepares students to contribute to a global society with integrity, compassion, and resilience. Together, we help **ALL** students **SHINE** at Squadron Line!

Simsbury Public Schools ~ Vision of A Graduate
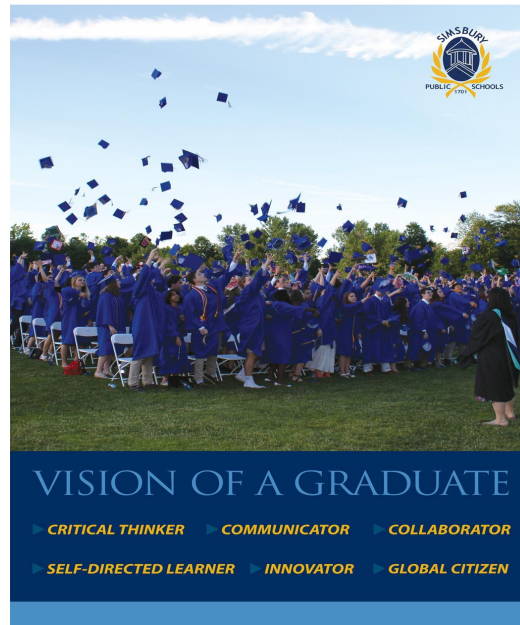
Critical Thinker

- 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
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.

Strategic Action Steps
- Use Data Team Meetings to identify students' response to instruction and to monitor growth and achievement relative to grade level standards.   - Use Professional Learning Community (PLC) Meetings to develop instructional plans and refine instructional practices to enhance the learning of all students.   - Utilize coaches to deliver professional development, provide student centered coaching, and monitor growth and achievement across all tiers of instruction.   - Increase collaboration between interventionists to ensure targeted instruction is aligned across all tiers of support.   - Accelerate student performance in math by implementation of a supplemental math block and professional development for teachers.   - 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
- Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) - ELA and Math (Grades 3-6)   - Next Generation Science Assessment (Grade 5)

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

ELA SBA Expectations by June of 2023
By June of 2023, 85% of students in grades 3-6 will meet or exceed the SBA ELA benchmark.

ELA SBA Results for 2022-2023
By June of 2023, 77% of students in grades 3-6 met or exceeded the SBA ELA benchmark. The percentage of SQL students in grades 3, 4, and 5 who met or exceeded expectations was above the district average for the 2022-2023 school year. All grade level cohorts had an increase in the percentage of students who met or exceeded goals from the 2021-2022 ELA SBA administration.

ELA SBA Next Steps for 2023-2024
- The SQL Administration and Leadership Team will analyze the data to identify successes and priorities for the 2023-2024 school year.   - We will continue to use Grade Level Data Team meetings to identify students who are not making adequate growth, develop targeted instruction plans for acceleration, and

monitor progress through formative assessments.
- Language Arts Consultants will continue to provide coaching cycles with teachers to assist with refining instructional practices to meet the needs of students in their classroom. There will be a focus on co-planning between Language Arts Consultants, General Education Teachers, and Special Education Teachers. In addition, we will increase the amount of building based professional development provided that targets the needs of SQL teachers and/or students.

Mathematics SBA Expectations by June of 2023

- By June of 2023, 80% of students in grades 3-6 will meet or exceed the SBA Math benchmark.

Mathematics SBA Results for 2022-2023

- By June of 2023, 73% of students in grades 3-6 met or exceeded the SBA Math benchmark. The percentage of SQL students in grades 3 and 4 who met or exceeded expectations was equal to the district average for the 2022-2023 school year. All grade level cohorts had an increase in the percentage of students who met or exceeded goals from the 2021-2022 Math SBA administration.

Mathematics SBA Next Steps for 2023-2024

- The SQL Administration and Leadership Team will analyze the data to identify successes and priorities for the 2023-2024 school year.
- We will continue to use Grade Level Data Team meetings to identify students who are not making adequate growth, develop targeted instruction plans for acceleration, and monitor progress through formative assessments.
- Our Math Coach will continue to provide coaching cycles with teachers to assist with refining instructional practices to meet the needs of students in their classroom. Support and professional development will be provided to Grade 4 as they pilot the Think Math Program.

NGSS Expectations by June of 2023

- By June of 2023, 75% of students in grade 5 will meet or exceed the NGSS benchmark.

NGSS Results for 2022- 2023

- By June of 2023, 79% of students in grade 5 met or exceeded the NGSS benchmark. This is a significant increase in the percentage of students who met or exceeded goals from the 2021-2022 NGSS administration. The percentage of SQL students who met or exceeded expectations was above the district average for the 2022-2023 school year.

NGSS Next Steps for 2023-2024

- Priorities and goals for 2023-2024 will be established with input from our Grade 5 science teachers.
- An analysis of what contributed to the tremendous success that our students had on the NGSS administration will be conducted. We want to ensure we continue the instructional practices that lead to this positive result.

Goal 2: Compassionate & 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.

Strategic Action Steps

- Rebrand our SHINE Character Education program in order to infuse the competencies of Vision of the Graduate, Growth Mindset, CASEL SEL, and Equity competencies into our school traits of respect, responsibility and kindness.
- Reinforce and celebrate themes of good character through the SHINE program.
- Implement Social/Emotional competencies and provide resources and lessons.
- Address needs of students based on teacher feedback using informal feedback measures.
- Utilize the SQL Leadership Teams to identify professional development opportunities for staff and programming/celebrations for students.
- Implement Principal Office Hours for staff and families to meet with administration to share celebrations, offer suggestions, and problem solve.

Performance Indicators

- Stakeholder Survey Results
- Feedback from faculty and staff
- Positive behavioral recognition and Better Choice Slips

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

Compassionate and Connected School Expectations by June 2023

- By July 2023, analyze performance indicator data for trends, celebrations, concerns and next steps.
- 100% of students will receive school-based positive behavioral recognition.
- ≤10% of students at SQL will required a Tier 2* behavior intervention.

Compassionate and Connected School Results for 2022- 2023

- By July 2023, we analyzed performance indicator data for trends, celebrations, concerns and next steps
  - 98% of students received school-based positive behavioral recognition. This was measured through the amount of students who received suns. Over 750 suns

> were earned throughout the 2022-2023 school year.
> - 9% of students at Squadron Line required a Tier 2* or Tier 3 behavior intervention.
> - Data shared by families and students in the end of year survey indicated concerns with discipline procedures, behavior distracting from learning, and the amount of respect being demonstrated.

Compassionate and Connected School Next Steps for 2023-2024

- The SQL Administration and Leadership Team will analyze prior action steps and outline priorities for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Targeted areas will include enhancing a sense of belonging to SQL and behavior.
- SEL Check Ins at Grade Level PLCs will occur three times per year to identify students who need additional social, emotional, or behavioral support.
- Grade 3 will receive support and professional development as they pilot Everyday Speech as a potential SEL curriculum for SPS elementary schools.

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 are certainly proud of the accomplishments achieved by Squadron Line students; however, our work is not complete until every child shares in our success. We will continue to work collaboratively with our staff to ensure that we meet the needs of students who did not demonstrate expected growth on the SBA and NGSS assessments.

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!