

EST. 1999

PRAIRIE CROSSING
CHARTER SCHOOL



CREATING NATURAL LEADERS

STRATEGIC PLAN
2015 - 2020



We believe that
children are our
best hope to
improve the world.



1.0 EDUCATION AND CURRICULUM

INNOVATIVE TEACHING PRACTICES THROUGH AN ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRATED CURRICULUM CREATE NATURAL LEADERS.

1.1 PCCS' integrated environmental curriculum prepares students to engage in and improve their communities.

- ✎ Innovative technology programs are meaningfully integrated into our environmental curriculum.
- ✎ Create and implement two or more units per year of replicable innovative integrated units focused around environmental issues, which incorporate Math, Science, Social Studies, ELA, and Fine Arts.
- ✎ Staff will capitalize on students' innate affinity for nature by using the campus resources and implementing new and innovative environmental education activities that use the outdoors as the classroom.
- ✎ Service learning is incorporated into the academic curriculum at all grade levels.

1.2 PCCS will provide inclusive educational opportunities for all students that maximize intellectual stimulation and social/emotional well-being.

- ✎ Evaluate and implement new phases of the Academic and Behavioral Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) program at the Level 1 and Level 2.
- ✎ Implement and evaluate the Social Emotional Learning (SEL)/Advisory programs, which include components of executive functioning and character education.
- ✎ Identify student needs, train staff and implement research based math intervention programs at all grade levels.
- ✎ Identify student needs, train staff, and implement research based reading interventions programs at all grade levels.
- ✎ Complete a five year MTSS Action Plan (currently in year 2).

1.3 PCCS will achieve high levels of academic success, with students' performance indicators showing continuous growth.

- ✎ Based on needs assessments, teachers will provide students with a variety of research based and innovative instructional strategies to ensure students will meet or exceed district and state standards.
- ✎ Teachers are trained and actively using differentiation techniques to ensure that students achieving above grade level have sufficient engaging and challenging learning opportunities.
- ✎ Students in grades 3rd through 8th grades will meet NWEA student growth expectations on both the Math and Reading assessments at or above 60%
- ✎ 93% of Students in grades 3rd through 8th grades will meet or exceed the PARCC standards in the content areas of Math and Reading.
- ✎ Develop, implement and evaluate new, innovative and integrated English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum and instructional practices to ensure alignment with the Common Core State Standards and integration with SS, Science, Mathematics, and Environmental Education.
- ✎ Improve a systematic archival of curriculum units and materials.
- ✎ Further integrate innovative problem-based learning opportunities into the curriculum
- ✎ Classroom teachers will construct the ELA curriculum for Year B. For each trimester there will be a at least two ELA units written per trimester aligned with the Common Core Standards, NGSS, Social Studies, and PCCS' environmental standards.
- ✎ Continue implementation and evaluation of instructional method of the Math curriculum at all grade levels.

1.4 Through effective communication, parents are empowered to assist in the education of their children.

- ✎ Parents will be invited and encouraged to plan, organize, and participate in regular academic and social events at PCCS.
- ✎ Parents will be invited and encouraged to join or work with board committees.
- ✎ Conduct surveys and community feedback loops to measure Parent satisfaction, opportunity for improvement and community engagement avenues.





2.0 STAFF DEVELOPMENT

HIGH QUALITY TEAMS ARE COHESIVE, DYNAMIC, INNOVATIVE AND INTEGRAL PART OF THE SCHOOL.

2.1 All Staff are models of Natural Leaders, involved in shared decision making that ensures that teaching, learning and living is through an environmental lens.

- ✦ Instructional Leadership will be shared through collaborative leadership teams in all subject areas.
- ✦ Professional development activities will ensure that staff feels empowered to provide integrated environmental education resources effectively.
- ✦ Form a DAC (Dean Advisory Council) with representation from each grade-band, specials, IAs, and SPED.
- ✦ Create five-year plan for professional development that encompasses administration, teaching staff, and administrative staff and provides appropriate opportunities for job specific needs, continued content knowledge, and building initiatives.
- ✦ Provide staff with opportunities and resources to create an environment in which all use technology.

2.2 Teachers will create a vision for high quality teams and be empowered to seek out staff development that is geared toward their goals and vision.

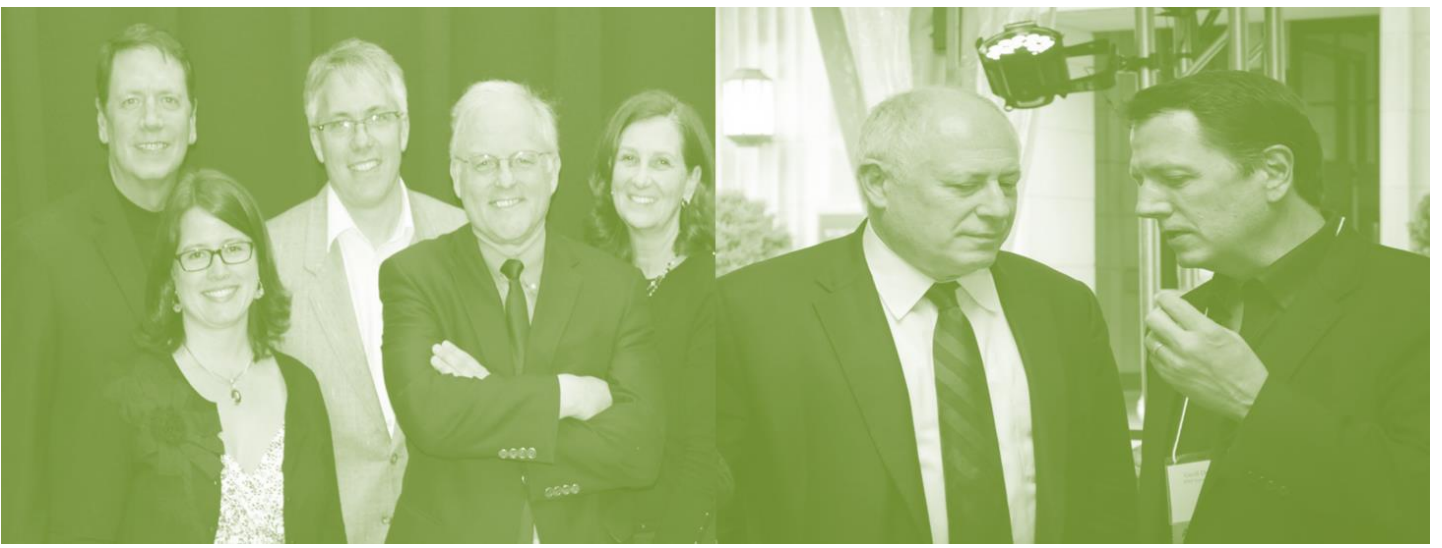
- ✦ Increase teachers team time -Grade level teams will have uninterrupted team time at least once per week to plan and collaborate and innovate.
- ✦ Increase Team-led meetings (both staff meetings and professional development meetings)
- ✦ Administration will attend team meetings at least once per month to help build capacity for dynamic team interactions.
- ✦ Reflection will become an integral part of both individual and team professional development.

- ✎ Staff and Faculty will be given time to collaborate, create, and share innovative and ambitious techniques and materials with teammates and colleagues across grade levels.
- ✎ Time will be set aside at each staff meeting for teachers to share new innovative techniques, skills, and activities

2.3 Staff will be champions of PCCS and PCCS will champion its staff

- ✎ Staff presents at Board meetings as Mission moments.
- ✎ Staff presents at local, state and national conferences.
- ✎ PCCS promotes the excellence of its teachers through news coverage, award applications, and other methods of community recognition.
- ✎ Staff members who attend conferences will articulate knowledge acquired with their peers, and when appropriate, with the school community, at grade band meetings, early release sessions, and/or in-service days.
- ✎ PCCS will seek out presentations and demonstrations that promote the growth of the school within the community.
- ✎ PCCS will collaborate with other school districts to share best practices, resources and innovative leaning initiatives.





3.0 PARTNERSHIPS

KEY PARTNERSHIPS FURTHER THE MISSION OF THE SCHOOL.

3.1 Establish partnerships with local and regional environmental organizations to strengthen the unique environmental aspects of the school.

- ✎ Work with local and regional environmental organizations to develop additional resources and opportunities for integrating the environment into our curriculum.
- ✎ The School will co-sponsor and host events that promote environmental awareness, integrated learning and action for the region.
- ✎ Highlight Faculty, Staff, Parents, Alumni and Students achievements in environmental awareness and achievements.
- ✎ Champion the Leave No Child Inside movement in Lake County.

3.2 Utilize the School and Campus to generate interest, support and recognition to PCCS

- ✎ Collaborate with surrounding academic institutions to influence legislation and support for local school district funding, educational issues and legislation at the state level.
- ✎ PCCS' green campus will serve as a host facility for educational opportunities, run by PCCS and by other like-minded organizations.

3.3 Promote professional learning communities and opportunities for Lake County Organizations to utilize PCCS resources to further their own mission.

- ✎ Establish relations for PCCS resources to provide opportunities for social services organizations in the region.
- ✎ Collaborate with local area organizations to enhance opportunities for educationally disadvantaged families.





4.0 CAMPUS PRIDE

THE CAMPUS IS AN ASSET TO OUR COMMUNITY AND PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO TEACH OUR INNOVATIVE STYLE OF LEARNING.

4.1 Our campus is aesthetically pleasing and environmentally low impact.

- ✎ Create systematic and ongoing plan for replacing furniture, and technology as needed.
- ✎ Faculty will be encouraged to create and share ideas for improving the general look and feel of the campus.
- ✎ A Garden of the Month club will be created to help foster student pride in the campus.
- ✎ Faculty-led green team will empower staff, students, and community members to make environmentally responsible campus improvements.

4.2 The campus is a curriculum component and serves as a learning laboratory for PCCS students and the community at large.

- ✎ The Sustainable Schoolyard (SSY) serves as a meaningful learning laboratory for students K through 8th, with garden education interwoven into the curriculum at all grade-levels.
- ✎ Farm to Table provides nutrition and local food educational opportunities for PCCS students and community.
- ✎ Expand SSY to provide learning and advanced techniques for upper school students.
- ✎ SSY provides learning opportunities and self-guided tours for our students and visitors to our campus through signage and interpretive information.
- ✎ PCCS' green campus will serve as a host facility for educational opportunities, run both by PCCS and by other like-minded organizations.



5.0 OUTREACH

PCCS IS THE DESIRED DESTINATION OF CHOICE FOR ALL PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS IN THE REGION.

5.1 Organizational and Resource Commitment

- ✦ Allocate additional resources: Staff, Funding and Time to increase outreach and enrollment initiatives.
- ✦ Establish annual Executive Director Goals to develop a more robust outreach effort with emphasis of attracting educationally disadvantaged and at-risk families.
- ✦ Restructure the role and responsibilities of the Community Engagement Liaison to focus primarily on outreach and enrollment efforts.
- ✦ Establish taskforces that will research, create, initiate and evaluate current charter school practices in Enrollment, Lottery Practices and Transportation opportunities.

5.2 Increase awareness and opportunity to attend PCCS

- ✦ Expand PCCS communication and information in Spanish and English in promotional information, enrollment, advertising and outreach initiatives.
- ✦ Examine current outreach practices and expand the outreach materials into a wider demographic region within and beyond our district boundaries.
- ✦ Establish an Ambassador Program to convey the quality of a PCCS Education and promote that PCCS is a free public school.

5.3 Establish partnerships with organizations that focus on social services for educationally disadvantaged students and families.

- ✦ Explore and establish partnership opportunities with mission-based organizations in the education, faith based, philanthropic, community and environmental arenas.
- ✦ Collaborate with local youth service organizations to increase awareness of PCCS and the enrollment eligibility opportunities for prospective families.

5.4 Establish an evaluation system to analyze outreach efforts.

- ✎ Update Board/Stakeholders of status of outreach and enrollment efforts on a quarterly basis.
- ✎ Explore, expand and alter the outreach approach as necessary in hopes of creating more opportunities for educationally disadvantaged and at-risk students to enroll at PCCS.





6.0 CULTURE

OUR CULTURE ENCOURAGES RESPECT AMONG STAFF, PARENTS AND STUDENTS TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS ARE PROVIDED WITH A SUPPORTIVE AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH TO GROW AND THRIVE ACADEMICALLY, SOCIALLY AND ENVIRONMENTALLY.

6.1 PCCS will be a safe school for members of the community.

- ✦ PBIS committee will maintain membership from the staff and community in order to implement, evaluate and expand the PCCS' PBIS System.
- ✦ Increase our PBIS and Anti-Bullying Awareness campaign with programming and training for staff. Update and evaluate Discipline Procedures as necessary.
- ✦ Provide professional development and staff training opportunities to strengthen consistency of procedures across grade levels.
- ✦ Character Development Curriculum will be developed and implemented to include bullying, discrimination, safety, respectful, and responsible behavior

6.2 PCCS will build and maintain trusting relationships among members of its community.

- ✦ Communication to the PCCS community will be fair, inclusive, and transparent.
- ✦ Monthly or Bi-monthly highlights will be provided via social media, newsletters and website.
- ✦ Increase opportunities for parents and community members to interact with administration about issues important to the community.
- ✦ Increase interactive communication to promote parent participation and provide understanding of their child's PCCS experience.
- ✦ Lead by example and develop trusting relationships among PCCS staff.
- ✦ Develop additional strategies to increase retention of teachers and students.

6.3 Our environmental commitment will be a central part of PCCS' character and culture.

- ✎ Visitors will recognize “green” as a cornerstone of PCCS culture.
- ✎ Where applicable, the School will keep the environment at the center of decisions making and implement sustainable best practices throughout the School.

