

Strategic Plan: Choice Academy, Decatur Central High School



THE CHOICE ACADEMY

2017

The Choice Academy focuses upon social, global, and environmental responsibility using a service learning model. This strategic plan communicates desired development in the areas of instruction, programming, and the service learning model.

Making the
World a
Better
Place

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MSD of Decatur Township

Mission

The MSD of Decatur Township is ***Student Invested*** and ***Community Connected***. We prioritize ***Student Learning, Safety,*** and ***Customer Service,*** fostering a support system for our families.

Vision

Learning Pathways for individual aspirations in an ever-changing world.

Belief Statement

A focus on student learning is essential for all of our children as we empower growth and development through a high level of expectations well beyond high school graduation. MSD of Decatur Township Graduates are prepared to achieve their life goals that they have developed through a focus on college and career readiness during their time at the MSD of Decatur Township.

Decatur Central High School

Mission

DCHS will produce college and career ready graduates, prepared for the 21st Century Global Economy, be being student-invested and community-connected.



The Choice Academy

Decatur Central High School implemented a Small Learning Community (SLC) model in the 2007-08 school year. The Choice Academy is one of the five SLCs housed within Decatur Central High School. Initially, the emphasis of the Choice Academy was upon human interactions and current events, and the Choice Academy struggled to build an identity based upon those interests. During the 2013-14 school year, the Choice Academy staff implemented their service learning model, beginning with grade level service days. Since then, the Choice Academy has engaged in further developing and expanding service projects in a multitude of formats, gaining national exposure and recognition in the 2015-16 school year. Today, the Choice Academy describes itself as an SLC that focuses upon social, global, and environmental responsibility using a service learning model. In order to capitalize upon its momentum, the Choice Academy will strive to attain the following goals in 2017-18:

- Cultivate the Service Learning Model
- Expand Course Offerings
- Refine Instruction

GOAL: Cultivate the service learning model.

Action Steps:

- Develop an urban garden (possibly a rooftop urban garden)
- Obtain dedicated, permanent space for the food pantry, including refrigeration and freezer space, preferably in the College and Career Readiness Center
- Implement a recycling program at lunch
- Expand the greenhouse (possibly to include rooftop greenhouse space)
- Develop a service pathway utilizing joint service activities with the Gold Academy and DMS Global SLC
- Celebrate service activities through addition of murals in the LGI

GOAL: Expand course offerings.

Action Steps:

- Implement a signature class at the sophomore level, integrating English 10, Speech, and Environmental Science
- Develop a plan to offer American Sign Language
- Develop a plan to offer a CTE Pilot Course, probably in Philanthropy
- Develop a plan to offer Global Economics
- Begin developing a CTE program related to Food Science, Agriculture, and the Environment by considering addition of some/all of the following courses:
 - ❖ Introduction to Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
 - ❖ Horticulture
 - ❖ Natural Resources
 - ❖ Plant and Soil Science
 - ❖ Supervised Agricultural Experience
 - ❖ Sustainable Energy Alternatives

GOAL: Refine instruction.

Action Steps:

- Utilize Smekens Reading Comprehension and/or Writing Strategies daily in every class
- Utilize the SAMR model to improve instruction through the integration of technology
- Refine the utilization of Student Learning Outcomes in every class
- Implement Schoolwide Learning Outcomes in every class
- Utilize College Readiness Assessments in most classes
- Expand peer observation for teachers

Summary

Our District Belief Statement says that “A focus on student learning is essential for all of our children as we empower growth and development through a high level of expectations well beyond high school graduation. MSD of Decatur Township Graduates are prepared to achieve their life goals that they have developed through a focus on college and career readiness during their time at the MSD of Decatur Township.” In order to best support our students in their pursuit of their life goals, the Choice Academy has established the goals set forth in this strategic plan (cultivating our service learning model, expanding our course offerings, and refining our instruction). These goals will help Choice Academy students gain global enrichment and deepen their understanding of their global impact. They will become socially, globally, and environmentally responsible as they attain college and career readiness.