

**STRATEGIC PLAN 2017:
EXPLORING OUR WAY TO SUCCESS**

*The School
of Quest and
Inquiry:
Decatur
Central HS*

Strategic Plan: The School of Quest and Inquiry Decatur Central High School

Table of Contents

MSD Decatur Township Mission and Vision.....2
Introduction.....3
Overview.....4

Areas of Focus

- 1. Student Engagement.....6
- 2. Student Achievement.....7
- 3. Classroom Instruction8

Measuring Success 9
Director’s Letter10

MSD Decatur Township Mission and Vision

Mission

The MSD of Decatur Township is Student Invested, 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

Decatur Central High School will Produce College and Career Ready Graduates, prepared for the 21st Century Global Economy, by being student-invested and community-connected.



Introduction

The classrooms in The School of Quest and Inquiry will be places of learning without limits.

In the near future, we must accelerate transformational and cultural change in our school community to prepare our students to be productive and effective citizens.

The School of Quest and Inquiry, also known as Q & I, is one of the five small learning communities at Decatur Central High School. Q & I focuses on **student-centered educational exploration**. Teachers use of the learning process of inquiry which allows teachers to act as facilitators of learning. The teacher creates real-world learning environments that employ a context in which learning is relevant and meaningful to the students. Teachers include activities that involve the students as an active learners. Teachers integrate technology as a vehicle through which they facilitate educational exploration. Exploration encourages students to learn to question things. The students collaborate with others and exchange ideas. A goal for students is to learn to think critically and at a higher level and to solve problems both independently and collaboratively. The school of Quest and Inquiry also has a heavy emphasis on the sciences and scientific processes as well. **Quest and Inquiry challenges students to Explore their Way to Success.**

INQUIRY involves students in:

- tackling real-world questions, issues and controversies
- developing questioning, research and communication skills
- solving problems or creating solutions
- collaborating within and beyond the classroom
- developing deep understanding of content knowledge
- participating in the public creation and improvement of ideas and knowledge

Overview

Strategic Plan 2017: Exploring Our Way to Success

In the future, The School of Quest and Inquiry must accelerate transformational and cultural change. That is the aim of this Strategic Plan 2017: Exploring Our Way to Success.

We propose to increase the engagement of our students in the school community to develop a commitment and connection to their educational experience.

We propose to raise student achievement and focus on individual academic growth by monitoring progress and challenging students to excel beyond their limits.

We propose to transform classroom teaching and learning by utilizing innovative technologies, embedding literacy strategies as well focusing on college and career skills.

If we act now – if we have the will as an educational community to effect the change contained in Strategic Plan 2017: Exploring Our Way to Success – we can make our community a place where learning has no limits. We can truly prepare our students to achieve their life goals.



Area of Focus Student Engagement

Goal

Quest and Inquiry students will show an increase in affective and cognitive engagement as measured by the SEI (Student Engagement Instrument)

Key Strategies

- Encourage participation and engage students in extra-curricular activities throughout high school
- Utilize a peer mentoring program to assist students in social emotional support as well as academic success.
- Create a sense of community through the use of restorative practices and positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS).
- Determine and address social and emotional needs of students.
- Increase parent communication through various means.



Area of Focus Academic Achievement

Goal

Quest and Inquiry students will show adequate academic progress.

Key Strategies

- Quest and Inquiry students will acquire the required number of credits each school year to be on track for graduation at the end of 8 semesters.
- Quest and Inquiry students pursuing an academic honors diploma will be encouraged to complete additional advanced placement and/or dual credit courses above the state of Indiana requirements
- Quest and Inquiry students pursuing a Core 40 diploma will be encouraged to complete a minimum of one advanced placement and/or dual credit course before graduation



Area of Focus Classroom Instruction

Goal

Quest and Inquiry classroom instruction will show evidence of integration of technology, literacy skills, cross-curricular focus and college and career readiness skills.

Key Strategies

- Integrate current and emerging technologies to promote teaching and learning excellence
- Integrate literacy strategies in all content area lesson plans
- Integrate and assess college and career readiness skills in all content areas
- Determine cross-curricular opportunities through investigation of curricular maps leading to development of cross-curricular lesson plans which include 2 or more content areas



Measuring Success

Measuring

Student Engagement

Through the use of a student engagement tool; SEI (Student Engagement Instrument), the Quest and Inquiry students will be assessed annually on their affective and cognitive engagement in school. The tool measures the following areas of engagement:

- Teacher-student relationships
- Peer Support at School
- Family Support for Learning
- Control and Relevance of School Work
- Future Aspirations and Goals
- Intrinsic Motivation

Academic Achievement

Through the review of student transcripts, academic achievement related to credit acquisition and challenging coursework completion will be assessed. Cohort data as well as individual student data will be analyzed.

Classroom Instruction

Through the use of a classroom walk-through protocol, classroom instruction will be assessed. The protocol will use a Google tool to collect and display data for analysis. The following areas of classroom instruction will be measured:

- Integration of Technology
- Literacy Strategies
- Cross-Curricular Lessons
- College and Career Readiness Skills

***Action Steps:**

Action steps for each key strategy in each of the areas of focus will be developed as data is collected and analyzed.



Director's Letter

Decatur Community

It is with great pleasure I present this plan to you. I am eager to begin the transformation to a school community where learning has no limits. I am committed to giving every student the opportunity to Explore their Way to Success as well as committed to giving the Quest and Inquiry staff the tools to guide their students.

As the strategic plan guides the decisions our staff makes, we are focused on using the framework to positively impact teaching and learning for all. This plan has been developed by staff through many hours of research, discussion and planning and we know we can make a difference. The students and their families of Decatur Township deserve nothing less. Moving forward, we are committed to putting these ideas into action and continuing to challenge ourselves to become better as we are asking the students to do as well.

The plan outlines three areas of focus; student engagement, student achievement and classroom instruction. At its core, the plan shows the way toward building a community of learners eager to achieve their life goals. In the near future, the plan will include specific action steps in each area as we collect data, analyze data, and make decisions based on our outcomes. The plan will develop in complexity as we have a deeper understanding of our student's needs and areas for growth.

Lastly, we are asking for your support in the implementation of this plan and our goal of creating a community where learning has no limits. We want you to help students understand they have the opportunity to Explore their Way to Success.

Please know that I am always available to discuss the details of the plan or to hear your concerns. Most importantly, I will be eager to see and celebrate our successes.

Sincerely,
Ms. Gale Stone
Director of Quest and Inquiry