

# The Longhorn Way

## Parent Edition No. 11

October 20, 2017

Each school year, all schools are required by the state to submit a Comprehensive School Improvement Plan. The plan includes goals and measurable objectives based on our school's achievement data from the previous school year. We, at West Middle, write the plan to be implemented in a three year cycle. The plan is not only aligned with the district goals, but with West Middle's own mission - to ensure all students find their purpose, place, and voice. We have outlined four major areas for our goals:

1. Implementation of the Professional Learning Community Process-providing development for our teachers to be able to work through the process to increase student achievement. The process is based around 5 critical questions. What do we want students to know? How will we know they know it? How will we respond when they already know it? What will we do when they don't know it? What are best practices to ensure all students learn at high levels?
2. Implementation of a systematic Character Education Process- This is our Leader in Me (LEAD) process of teaching and demonstrating the learning around the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. This includes West Time and LEAD Time for students to develop leadership skills and so we recognize their worth and potential.
3. Continue our work as professionals to increase our understanding around Social Justice. The West Middle Staff engaged in Social Justice Training in the 2015-2016 School year. We will strive to continue to learn and widen our lens to reach all students.
4. Increasing student engagement in the classroom to ensure all students learn at high levels. Our staff has had ongoing training in this area with 90 percent of the staff attending a 2 day training using on how to use Kagan Strategies to increase achievement.

We are always striving to improve our work and help all students learn at high levels, while recognizing their worth and potential. If you would like a copy of our Comprehensive Plan please send me an email.

One way we will measure our progress toward implementation of our Leader in Me (LEAD) process is by using a survey tool called **Measurable Results Assessment Survey**. We emailed all stakeholders-parents, teachers, and students to fill out a survey on October 19 and we will send another survey in May.

**Red Ribbon Week:** West Middle's National Red Ribbon Campaign will be the week of October 23-27, 2017. Since its beginning in 1985, the Red Ribbon has touched the lives of millions of people around the world. Parents and youth in communities across the country began wearing Red Ribbons as a symbol of their commitment to raise awareness of the killing and destruction cause by drugs in America. Today, the Red Ribbon serves as a catalyst to mobilize communities to educate youth and encourage participation in drug prevention activities.

See the attached flyer for the schedule of events and special dress up activities.

**PTO NEWS: Jr. Longhorn Spirit Campaign** - We've got spirit, yes we do! We've got spirit, how 'bout you? We are at 64% of our goal with 11 days left in our campaign. If you haven't donated, there is still time! Just visit the PTO and visit the [Jr Longhorn Spirit Campaign Link](#) or contact email: [jrlonghornspirit@gmail.com](mailto:jrlonghornspirit@gmail.com). Will you show your Jr. Longhorn Spirit and donate today?

Thanks for sharing your kids with us!

~Annie

Follow us on Twitter @parkwaywestmiddle

Like us on Facebook at Parkway West Middle School

**Mark Your Calendar**

**Book Fair open Monday-Wednesday 8:00 am-3:30 pm; Thursday until 7:45 pm**

**October 23:** National School Bus Safety Week

Red Ribbon Week - **Wear Pajamas or Comfortable Pants (No onesies or slippers)**

6th & 7th Grade Soccer Tournament @ NE Middle 3:30pm

**October 24:** Red Ribbon Week - **Dress as your favorite season**

8th Grade Choir - All District Concert @ Touhill UMSL 7:00 pm

**October 25:** Picture Retake Day

Red Ribbon Week - ***Dress like your future career choice***

Soccer Tournament Rain Date

**October 26:** ***No After School Activities***

Red Ribbon Week - **Throwback Thursday - Dress your favorite Decade**

Parent Teacher Conferences 4:00 pm -7:00 pm

**October 27 :** 8th Grade MOSAICS Field Trip to Truman Library Independence, MO

Red Ribbon Week - **Color Wars 6th Grade: Red/7th Grade: White/8th Grade: Blue**

***The secret to getting ahead is getting started.***