

SAUGANASH SCHOOL

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Sean Kennedy - Principal's Report to LSC & School Community

January 12, 2026

2024 – 2026 Continuous Improvement Work Plan

Priority #1	Priority #2	Priority #3
Curriculum & Instruction	Inclusive and Supportive Learning	Partnership & Engagement
<p>Theory of Action:</p> <p>If we...have a school wide culturally responsive curriculum and pedagogy, reinforced by comprehensive professional development</p> <p>then we see...greater student and staff investment and participation in the curriculum through exposure to other cultures and diverse experiences.</p> <p>which leads to...enhanced relationships among all stakeholders and improved academic progress in all content areas and among sub groups.</p>	<p>Theory of Action:</p> <p>If we...develop an integrated team consisting of grade band representatives, special education teachers, EL endorsed teachers, related service providers and administrative representatives in order to identify student learning needs, set individual learning goals for students, and review progress monitoring (in conjunction utilizing Branching Minds as a platform to track student progress) data every five weeks.</p> <p>then we see...consistent implementation of MTSS interventions specific to each student's learning needs as determined by the Inclusion and Supportive Learning team as well as communication of strategies and supports across each student's teachers and service providers.</p> <p>which leads to... student tier movement in Star 360, improved grades, increased attendance, and eventual transition out of the MTSS program. Additionally, students who require further interventions and/or evaluation for more intensive services will be identified.</p>	<p>Theory of Action:</p> <p>If we... create a consistent structured behavioral system across grade levels with administrative, staff, parent, and student input that identifies accountability standards related to behavioral expectations and resulting positive and negative consequences that are transparent to families</p> <p>then we see...increased student respect toward peers and staff, increased student preparedness and on-task classroom behavior, increased student involvement toward incentives for positive behavior, decreased misconduct reports, increased parent involvement and communication regarding student behavioral progress</p> <p>which leads to... which leads to -increased on-task behavior and resulting positive learning outcomes (grades, test scores) -increased student and staff morale -positive and open relationships between staff, students and parents</p>

ILT/CIWP Team: Lauren Ackermann, Hallie Askovich, Emily Carroll, Krista Evans, Sean Kennedy, Katie Gragson, Matt Allore, Katie Styzek, Michael Tader, Dawn Arens, & Isabella Portelli

Sauganash Happenings: Teacher, Staff, Parent, Community & Student Recognition

Teachers & Staff

- Robotics Team - Advancing to Sectionals at Chicago Vocational HS 1/31
- Drama Show - "Newsies Jr" - Huge success with over 65 students participating
- Q2 Sauganash Standout Assembly - Friday 1/9/26 ("Inclusivity")

Community

- LSC Election Application Deadline is 1/20 @ 3:00pm

Field Trips

- PreK-2nd - Greatworks Theater coming to Sauganash on January 30th
- 8th Grade heading to Shakespeare Theater and also planning end of the year Cubs & Boat trips.

Athletics & Extra Curriculars

- Winter athletics having great seasons (7/8th Boys & Girls basketball teams are both undefeated)

Friends of Sauganash PTO:

- Sauganash Has Talent - Talent Show 2/4 during the school day. Thursday 2/5/26 a 5:00pm show
- 2025 PTO Gala "Casino Royale" - March 7th @ Lone Tree Manor, Niles IL

Domain 1: Organizational Leadership

Oversees systems, structures, and processes for continuous improvement

- A. Vision, Mission & Goals:** Collaboratively sets vision, mission, and goals that reflect high expectations for every student & ensures the vision, mission and goals to drive school decisions.
- B. Strategic Planning & Budgeting:** Facilitates the development, implementation, monitoring, and adjustment of school-wide plans and allocates resources strategically and equitably.
- C. Continuous Improvement:** Creates a continuous improvement cycle that integrates strategy development, implementation planning, data review, and practice fusing to achieve sustained high impact practices that uphold measurable improvement without burdening marginalized groups.

Instructional Teams:

- ILT team has transitioned to the CIWP Writing for 2027-2029
- MTSS Team will look at MOY data to make adjustments and recommendations to students who would benefit from Tier 2 & 3 interventions in Reading, Math, SEL/Behavior

January Budget Items:

No expenses or checks over \$2,500. We did have to purchase a couple cases of copy paper since we were running out of paper.

Domain 2: Instructional Core

Ensures rigorous and coherent curriculum, instruction and assessments aligned to the needs of every student

- A. Courses & Content:** Ensures academic programming and curricula are culturally responsive, rigorously prepare students for academic and postsecondary success, and align to student and school needs.
- B. Instructional Strategies:** Ensures implementation of effective classroom instructional strategies and interventions aligned to student and school needs.
- C. Assessment Data:** Oversees use of quality assessments and disaggregation of data to inform equitable instructional decisions.

iReady & Star 360 MOY Implementation: Students in K-2 will be completing their iReady assessments with 3-8th doing their Star 360 assessments. These are done during their ELA/Math blocks.

Network 1 Rigor MOY Focus Walk

- We will do our middle of the year focus walk on 2/24 with the Instructional Empowerment tool.

High School Process: Counselors checked in with the Class of 2026 to confirm their GoCPS accounts were complete and accurate prior to the deadline. They continue to be a resource for the students and parents as they work through the next steps in the process.

Domain 3: Culture and Climate

Ensures that organizational norms, routines and systems equitably promote the students' intellectual, social, and emotional development

- A. Family & Community Engagement:** Proactively fosters relationships with families, local school committees, and community members and helps them own and contribute to school goals.
- B. Connectedness & Well-being:** Creates a school climate that promotes social, emotional and physical health and ensures the safety, positive behavior, and well-being of all students, staff and self.
- C. Systems & Structures:** Effectively organizes and manages school logistics (communication, scheduling, space, procedures, etc.) to accomplish school goals and create a positive, inclusive school culture.

Visits from Alderman Nugent & Senator Villivalam: We had visits from our area politicians in December. They came to see persuasive speeches performed by the 8th grade class. Students wrote speeches about

specific amendments and change making ideas. This was facilitated through 8th grade ELA and SS teachers and classes.

Ongoing Counseling Lessons Our Counselors have a schedule of classroom lessons that help support social emotional topics, coping strategies, organization and functional topics, social media and digital citizenship topics.

LSC Election 2026 LSC 2026 Election Materials delivered. Communication forthcoming. (Election 3/18)

- Application period opens October 20, 2025: Full instructions for applying to run as an LSC candidate will be posted to this page when the period opens. Please check back on October 20 for details.
- Application period closes at 3:00 pm on January 20, 2026: All application materials must be submitted by the deadline to be nominated as a candidate.

Attendance: Sauganash's current attendance rate is 95.37%. (November 95.93%)

2025-26 Q2 - Sauganash Standout Assembly Q2 assembly focus was "inclusivity" and it was great to highlight the awesome work from our staff and students from Q2.

Domain 4: Talent

Ensures identification, development, and retention of diverse talent and cultivates leadership

- A. Development & Evaluation:** Creates opportunities and structures for continuous growth of staff and self by ensuring they have equitable access to training, coaching and/or other development resources. Provides fair assessments of performance including timely feedback to inform development.
- B. Professional Culture & Retention:** Creates a collaborative professional culture in which staff of all backgrounds feel valued, respected, and want to stay and contribute to the school's goals.
- C. Leadership Teams & Development:** Creates and supports effective teams, distributes leadership roles and responsibilities, and develops leadership capacity of staff.

Talent & Hiring Updates

- Ms. Donatello who is in for Mr. Gunderson's leave, will be transitioning to a miscellaneous aide position for the rest of the year. This will be another lunch/recess coordinator to assist.
- We received another SECA position to assist with required SPED minutes for some of our students. We are going through the hiring process to onboard a candidate.

Principal/AP Professional Learning: Monthly Network 1 principal/AP meetings on second or third Thursday each month.

- Department of Principal Quality - Year 2 Principal Cohort (BiMonthly Professional Learning)
 - Mr. Kennedy attended on 12/8 at Claremont Academy School
 - Next session 2/9 at Michelle Clark High School

- Department of Principal Quality & Network 1 Assistant Principal Professional Learning Community
 - Ms. Arens attended in December and will go to the next session 1/29 at Chicago Academy

REACH Observations: Ms. Arens and I have completed 24 REACH observations (44%) so far. We started this school year with the PATs, or teachers going on leave, and moving into the Tenured Teachers.

***Note:** Every element of each competency may not be addressed every month. But, taken collectively all reports across the school year will address fully every element of each competency.

Sauganash Mission & Vision

The mission of Sauganash School is to provide a high quality educational program that meets the academic needs of our students through an integrated curriculum, differentiated instruction, and the use of technology. Sauganash School is committed to meeting the academic, social, emotional, and physical needs of our students. We are dedicated to fostering a positive school climate that enables all students' intellectual growth to maximize their potential and prepare them for college and career path readiness.

Welcome to Sauganash.... "Believe to Achieve...The Power of a Chief!"

Miscellaneous Updates

- The start of 2026 and 3rd quarter went very smooth this week. Thank you to the parents for preparing their children for their return to school. Students, for coming in with great attitudes to attack 3rd quarter the right way, and the staff for preparing accordingly.