



PATHWAYS		TECHNOLOGY		FACILITIES	
Goal #1 Inspire Learning	Goal #2 Inspire Learning	Goal #3 Unlock Potential	Goal #4 Unlock Potential	Goal #5 Empower Achievement	Goal #6 Empower Achievement
<i>Articulate</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>Challenge</i>	<i>Success</i>	<i>Involve</i>	<i>Build</i>
<i>Implement pathway and framework for PK-14 programming to ensure all students graduate future-ready.</i>	<i>Create effective and agile organization that is individually responsible to the needs of the whole child.</i>	<i>Become an excellent learning organization through a culture of continuous improvement.</i>	<i>Maximize achievement by increasing digital literacy utilizing 21st century digital tools.</i>	<i>Enhance engagement opportunities through focused strategic partnerships.</i>	<i>Construct physical learning environments using fiscally responsible and sustainable practices.</i>

Table of Contents

Goal #1: Inspire Learning (Articulate):

Updates on Progress:

Page 2

Page 3

Goal #2: Inspire Learning (Support):

Updates on Progress:

Page 4

Page 5

Goal #3: Unlock Potential (Challenge):

Updates on Progress:

Pages 6-8

Page 9

Goal #4: Unlock Potential (Success):

Updates on Progress:

Page 12

Page 13

Goal #5: Empower Achievement (Involve):

Updates on Progress:

Page 14

Page 15

Goal #6: Empower Achievement (Build):

Updates on Progress:

Page 16

Page 17

Achievements and Honors:

Page 18

Goal #1: Inspire Learning (Articulate)

Implement pathway and framework for PK-14 programming to ensure all students graduate future-ready.

Year 1:

Strategic Initiatives	Measures of Success
Develop a framework for students to experience and successfully pursue post-secondary career offerings.	Begin baseline tracking and reporting of % college acceptance rates (2017-18) and graduation rates (2011-2017) in order to establish reliable benchmark targets and enhance program offerings. {Improve college acceptance and college graduation rates (post-secondary student success metrics)}
Review policies to ensure the District's theory of action for teaching and learning is articulated.	By summer 2017: Administration will work with Policy Committee to review, edit, and recommend policy changes, if necessary (Instructional Consistency).
Curricular alignment to essential knowledge and skills supported by a coherent and aligned assessment system.	K-4: In 2017-18, in the area of literacy (reading, foundational, literature, and informational text and writing) we will document unwrapped standards, student "I can" statements, and identification of priority standards (on report card). Once priority standards are determined, we will begin to work on developing assessments and rubrics that ensure priority standards are being learned by students.
	Grades 5-7: In 2017-18, common assessments will be created for each unit of study in all subject areas. The creation of a middle level report card based on standards will be developed. Common assessments and the middle level report card will be used for reporting purposes in the 2017-18 school year.
	Grades 10-12: By the fall of 2017, identification of priority standards will be documented (via PowerSchool) to ensure priority standards are being learned by students.
	High School: By 2017-18 the Linn-Mar High School Program of Studies will be updated to include Innovation Center and Iowa BIG. This allows for a more aligned curriculum for core courses, AP coursework and Kirkwood offerings.
	Special Education Programming: By the end of 2017-18, using Iowa's Specially Designed Instruction Framework, a core special education group will analyze the recommended key components and critical features to operationally define specially designed instruction in our district.

Refer to the Strategic Plan for Year 2 Strategic Initiatives and Measures of Success.

Board Book: Nov 7, 2016

Updates on Goal #1: Inspire Learning (Articulate)

Implement pathway and framework for PK-14 programming to ensure all students graduate future-ready.

Update on Board Policy Website: The new Board policy website is almost ready to launch. Final edits and formatting are currently underway, with the goal to go live just prior to Thanksgiving. Minutes and exhibits from the previous three years will be uploaded and the Board Book will be incorporated into the site as well. For a preview of the site, [click here](#).

Goal #2: Inspire Learning (Support)

Create effective and agile organization that is individually responsible to the needs of the whole child.

Year 1:

Strategic Initiatives	Measures of Success
Individualized and data-driven instruction.	During the 2017-18 school year, all schools will plan for individualized academic interventions (priority standards/content) for all students regardless of need based on an understanding of child development and learning theories within PLCs 100% of the time as measured by team notes. PLCs will develop and implement differentiated classroom instructional opportunities (in specified areas per grade level) for all students. Measure: The use of common formative assessments to differentiate instruction.
	Explore opportunities to better communicate pathway opportunities for students through better articulation during instruction.
Each student enters school healthy and learns about/practices healthy lifestyle.	Develop a Health Curriculum Committee to review health education guidelines and determine district needs. Final recommendations will be made by June of 2017.
	Work with Community Relations on a communications plan to engage parents prior to students entering school regarding wellness and well-being of children to be completed in spring 2017.
Each student learns in a physically and emotionally safe environment.	Staff, students, and family members establish and maintain school and classroom behavioral expectations, rules, and routines that teach students how to manage their behavior and help students improve problem behavior.
	Schools teach, model, and provide opportunities to practice social-emotional skills, including effective listening, conflict resolution, problem solving, personal reflection and responsibility, and ethical decision making.
	Mental Health Needs: In 2017-18, continue partnerships and continue to explore additional family/staff education opportunities as they arise.
	Throughout the 2017-18 school year, Board of Education members will serve as PBIS "School Champions" and report school successes as part of regular board meetings in order to facilitate district-wide communication and support of the program.
	In 2017-18, schools will report goals, benchmarks and outcome data regularly through the Administrative Report to the Board and community.
	As a district focus on making connections with kids. Progress will be tracked via Gallup Poll and Olweus.
	ALICE Trainings: begin classroom lessons, communication on training w/ staff, families, and community, active trainings to begin spring or early fall.

Refer to the Strategic Plan for Year 2 Strategic Initiatives and Measures of Success.

Board Book: Nov 7, 2016

Updates on Goal #2: Inspire Learning (Support)

Create effective and agile organization that is individually responsible to the needs of the whole child

Goal #3: Unlock Potential (Challenge)

Become an excellent learning organization through a culture of continuous improvement.

Year 1:

Strategic Initiatives	Measures of Success
Promote understanding of total compensation at Linn-Mar and recognize compensation as a competitive tool to drive organizational results.	Conduct a thorough job analysis for each certified and classified position over the 2017-18 school year.
Provide ongoing professional development for teaching staff that supports core instruction, interventions and curriculum implementation.	Create and implement a three-year flexible, professional development plan; thoughtfully allocating state categorical funding to support PD plan. This plan will be shared with the Board of Education in the Winter of 2016-17.
	Throughout the 2016-17 school year, provide professional learning at each PDD on measuring the success of specific teaching strategies in an effort to identify and know how to utilize the most 'high impact' learning strategies. (Many resources can be used to do this including Hattie's Visible Learning and Marzano's Art and Science of Teaching).
Effective and efficient use of data.	By March 2017 we will develop a foundational understanding of Smarter Balanced Assessment with staff, students, and community and be prepared to implement Smarter Balanced for the 2017-18 school year.
	Explore dashboard (performance metrics) possibilities for % of students in AP/honors/IB; % of students who show academic growth on NWEA, FAST, Iowa Assessment; % of students who achieve IEP Goals; and other relevant "predictive gateways" for academic success.
Curriculum, instruction and assessment demonstrate high expectations for all students.	Using relevant achievement gap information, identify opportunities to increase the number of students performing at or above grade level in math and reading.
	Expand early literacy within the early childhood programs by using creative curriculum assessment information to drive instruction.
	Provide substantive support to enhance math and reading skills PreK-5.
	During the 2016-17 school year, identify all level 3 and level 4 questions used on all common formative or summative assessments within each course at the high school level.
	During the 2016-17 school year we will closely monitor and update our stakeholders as appropriate, federal and state initiatives including Smarter Balanced, ESSA, ELI and CASA.
	By the end of 2016-17, develop a K-8 standards based report card.

Goal #3: Unlock Potential (Challenge) *Continued*

Become an excellent learning organization through a culture of continuous improvement.

Year 1:

Strategic Initiatives	Measures of Success
<p>Becoming Deliberately Developmental about our staff as we shift from "Human Resources" to "Talent Management".</p>	<p>Research well-being and insurance models/best practices and explore community partnerships (Ex. Blue Zones) to improve Linn-Mar and community health and well-being, reduce health care claim costs from 5 year historical averages, and enhance productivity.</p>
	<p>Reduce employee workers compensation claims from 5-year average info.</p>
	<p>By spring 2017, develop integrated marketing and communications programs that position Linn-Mar as the district of choice for world class teaching, learning and student achievement. Develop and begin to execute and assess integrated strategic marketing and communications programs, both internal and external, to strengthen, promote and protect Linn-Mar’s brand identity, relevance, accomplishments and excellence.</p>
	<p>Explore opportunities to expand mentor programs for all employee groups and leverage their talent/knowledge to improve our overall performance.</p>
	<p>Work to create and maintain a predictable, respectful, compliant, labor relations environment, alignment and consistency with the overall employee relations strategy based on proactive and open communications.</p>
	<p>Research comprehensive and engaging performance management plans for classified and professional staff.</p>
	<p>Foster a positive, engaging, diverse and inclusive work environment while identifying and responding to the changing needs of the Linn-Mar community.</p>
<p>Cultivate a high achieving performance culture.</p>	<p>Revise recruitment strategy and branding program by late winter (2016-17).</p>
	<p>Always promote a school culture with the belief system of all students can learn.</p>

Goal #3: Unlock Potential (Challenge) *Continued*

Become an excellent learning organization through a culture of continuous improvement.

Year 1:

Strategic Initiatives	Measures of Success
<p>Strengthen leadership capability throughout Linn-Mar to promote high levels of performance and productivity and sustain excellence.</p>	<p>Make school building-level communication the major focus of the communication efforts.</p>
	<p>Provide training to district leaders to address all aspects of the employee life cycle.</p>
	<p>Begin to develop a leadership ladder (succession planning) throughout Linn-Mar in all employee groups with a focus on recruitment and retention.</p>
	<p>Identify employee skill gaps, provide opportunity for improvement/workout plan or coaching out (coach up or counsel out).</p>
	<p>School Board, district leaders, and building administrators continually seek to improve knowledge of upcoming trends in education and research on school improvement by having memberships to professional organizations, attending relevant conferences, and networking with other administrative professionals.</p>
	<p>School Board Policy Committee to develop and deploy Board Learning Plan and work to strategically align all board committee work under the Strategic Plan.</p>

Refer to the Strategic Plan for Year 2 Strategic Initiatives and Measures of Success.

Updates on Goal #3: Unlock Potential (Challenge)

Become an excellent learning organization through a culture of continuous improvement.



Blue Ribbon Award Recognition for Indian Creek: On Monday, November 7th and Tuesday, November 8th Indian Creek Elementary will be officially recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education. Principal Marilee McConnell and 3rd Grade Teacher Leigh Ann Cleland will be in Washington D.C., to accept this honor on behalf of the school and community. Congratulations to Indian Creek for this exceptional honor!

Fall FAST Data: We have completed our fall FAST assessment and congratulate our students for doing very well. FAST is a required assessment by the Iowa Department of Education as part of the Early Literacy Implementation legislation. Results are shown below by the percent of students proficient compared to Iowa schools and schools that are part of the Grant Wood Area Education Association.

Grade Level	State of Iowa	Grant Wood AEA	Linn-Mar
K	68.26	71.41	78.41
1st	69.28	71.29	81.5
2nd	65.72	69.16	71.5
3rd	65.53	68.18	75.81
4th	64.82	70.68	76.36
5th	65.84	71.1	82.35
Overall	64.33	69.08	77.61

Wellness Committee Updates:

Initiatives for 2016-2017:

- Flu Shot Clinics: Completed 10/19 – Clinics were held at each building with a total of 165 participants
- Financial Fitness Academy: 9/26 – 11/18
- Zumba Class: 10/17 – 11/21 - Oak Ridge fitness room
- Weight Watchers at Work: New session starts 10/24 – Mondays @ 4:00 & Wednesdays @ 7:00 AM

Future Plans for 2016-17:

- Live Healthy Iowa: January 2017
- Cooking class
- CPR class: Area ambulance
- Growl Prowl promotion
- Volleyball Club: if space can be found

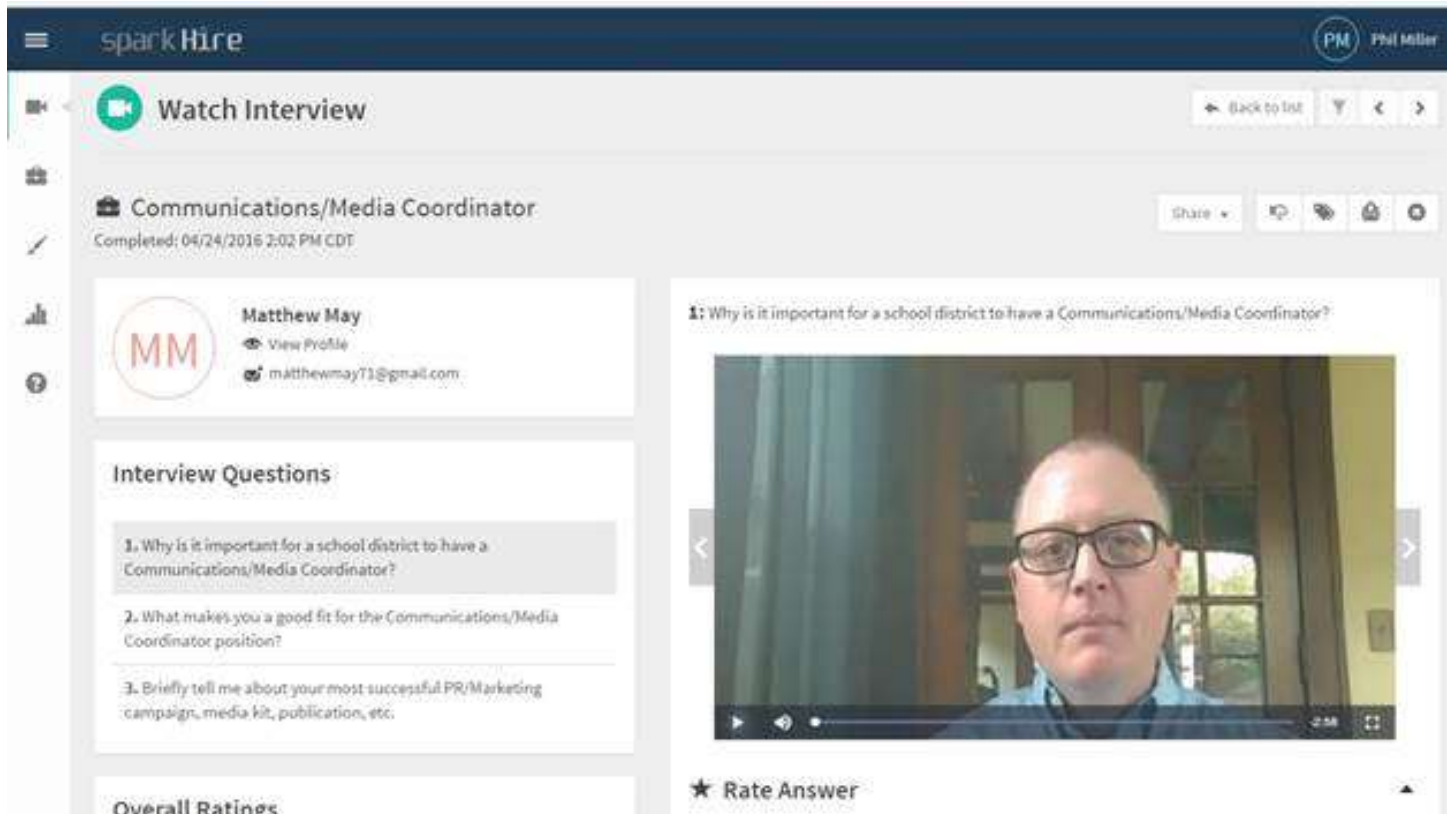
- Walking Clubs: building level
- Healthy potluck days: building level
- The idea for additional fitness classes and use of district exercise equipment has been discussed and been ruled out at this time due to:
 - After school daycare using elementary gyms
 - Sports teams using gyms in the evening
 - LRC gym is used by High School Poms and Cheerleaders
 - High school and middle school weight rooms are occupied by classes/sports teams
 - Aquatic Center is only available in the spring; lap swim times were available to staff but locker rooms were not available for use

Teladoc:

- 699 eligible employees
- 363 registered employees (up 156 from last year at this time)
- YTD consults are 286 (up 85 consults from last year at this time)
- YTD utilization is 55.9% (up from 54.5% last year at this time)

11/10/16 Joint Boards Presentation Preview:

Spark Hire



- Spark Hire is an interviewing platform that can be used to conduct interviews with candidates in a variety of ways. It can be done in the more traditional, live, two-way video format or by pre-loaded questions to which the applicant can record responses in the manner that we designate. We have typically used this as a pre-screening device to narrow down the pool of applicants and better identify candidates to bring in for interviews at the building level.

Board Book: Nov 7, 2016

- The pre-screen interview will usually consist of 3-5 questions we create that speak specifically to the building culture and position need for the vacancy for which they've applied. The supervisor will identify the applicants they wish to pre-screen with Spark Hire and we then send them an interview request that they will have to complete by a certain date. Once the supervisor reviews all of the responses, they will have a much better understanding of the potential fit for each applicant and can then invite the top choices for in-person interviews at the building level.
- All of the interviews on Spark Hire, including the live versions, are recorded so that we can go back and review the answers at any time. This also allows results to be shared if there are similar vacancies in the district. Going forward, the platform will be used to expand our recruiting reach. It will allow us to screen and interview more candidates at a distance as we look to move into other geographical areas to find applicants who line up with our Affirmative Action plan. We have also used Spark Hire to interview applicants as part of our virtual career fair showing the ability to make the best use of current technology to connect with candidates in a way that is both convenient and comfortable to them. We see it continuing to be a tool to save supervisors time in the hiring process while ensuring a better fit for all parties. This will result in better performance for the district and higher job satisfaction for applicants.

Goal #4: Unlock Potential (Success)

Maximize achievement by increasing digital literacy utilizing 21st century digital tools.

Year 1:

Strategic Initiatives	Measures of Success
Digital Content	Explore and clarify LM working definitions related to digital learning (blended learning, digital content, etc.) to establish a shared vision.
	Identify specific areas to provide district, building, and instructional support for technology integration and implementation.
	Review, update and curate our PreK-12 digital curriculum to ensure it is rigorous and relevant.
	Identify and develop an online course option, aimed primarily at LMHS 11th and 12th grade students, in each department area that may or may not be a required course.
Digital Citizenship	During 2016-17 explore PreK-12 Digital Citizenship Curriculum (i.e. CommonSense Media).
	2016-17 TICs provide professional development on digital citizenship.
Digital Equity	Review technology equity procedures to inform future policy decisions.
	Establish a uniform, digital checkout process for students who do not have Wi-Fi or computer outside of school.
	Using assessment information, implement the appropriate assistive technology tool(s) for students with special needs in the general education classroom.
	By increasing understanding of assistive technology, promote a culture of individualizing learning needs.
Digital Pedagogy	Begin a process to ensure all faculty have the qualifications and training necessary to deliver courses in a variety of modes; specifically regarding online instruction.
	Create a faculty mentor program or peer review system as a way to improve online/hybrid courses.
	Explore potential resources and processes for future curriculum.
	Utilize Technology Instructional Coaches (TICs) to provide coaching support for teachers integrating technology into their instruction.
Digital Communication	Use annual staff/student/parent/community survey data to determine effective use of school website for consistent district and building level communication.
	Explore possibilities for better alignment and integration of systems used by parents (i.e. PowerSchool, TouchBase and Total Access).
	Promote current electronic communication services for staff to access relevant information regarding resources.

Refer to the Strategic Plan for Year 2 Strategic Initiatives and Measures of Success.

Updates on Goal #4: Unlock Potential (Success)

Maximize achievement by increasing digital literacy utilizing 21st century digital tools.

Huntley School District Visit: On October 12th a team of five administrators visited Huntley School District in suburban Chicago to learn more about how they incorporate innovation into education. Blended Learning, 1:1 initiatives, collaborative learning spaces, and PBIS were some of the innovative ideas that were observed during the visit. Future staff visits are scheduled in the upcoming months to continue the learning process and apply some of these ideas at Linn-Mar.

Future Ready Schools Update: The Future Ready Leadership Team met on November 2nd to review the “7 Gear” framework and collectively participate in the Future Ready District Assessment to determine where we currently are as a district. This was a critical first step for us as we prepare to plot our course forward. The robust conversation involved many of our educators and administrators at all levels.



FRS Leadership Planning Team:

- Superintendent Quintin Shepherd
- Associate Superintendent Shannon Bisgard
- Education Technology Leader & Dir of MS Teaching & Learning Bob Read
- Director of High School Teaching & Learning Jeff Frost
- Director of Elementary Teaching & Learning Kelly Kretschmar
- Technology and Infrastructure Director Jeri Ramos
- Oak Ridge Media Specialist Sue Kraus
- Echo Hill Elementary Principal Dan Ludwig
- Indian Creek Elementary 3rd Grade Teacher Chris James
- Excelsior Middle School Associate Principal Steven Starkey
- High School Social Studies Teacher John Hansen
- Chief Financial Officer & Chief Operating Officer JT Anderson
- Elementary Technology Integration Coach Ryan Gotto
- Community Leader Bob Neilly (*tentative*)
- School Board Vice President George AbouAssaly

Goal #5: Empower Achievement (Involve)

Enhance engagement opportunities through focused strategic partnerships.

Year 1:

Strategic Initiatives	Measures of Success
Internal Partnerships	Investigate and research district administration practices and processes to enable principals to focus more on instructional leadership.
	Promote opportunities for district employees to volunteer in classrooms.
	Explore and clarify the purpose and structure of district leadership meetings to align with strategic plan.
External Partnerships	Create conditions to provide transparent, accurate and accessible information through dashboards.
	Broaden opportunities for local businesses and historically underutilized businesses to work with the district.
	Explore opportunities for the city and local districts to share costs for shared services.
	Develop/nurture relationships and work with community partners and media to define, promote, expand and market signature programs.
	Begin to establish a network of information ambassadors.
	Enhance established partnerships with the business community, as well as nationwide, to broaden recruitment, wellness, volunteer and diversity initiatives.
	Promote external partners to join district committees and district staff participate in outside committee groups.

Refer to the Strategic Plan for Year 2 Strategic Initiatives and Measures of Success.

Updates on Goal #5: Empower Achievement (Involve)

Enhance engagement opportunities through focused strategic partnerships.

SportsWorld Presentation to High School Students: On October 27th over 700 high school students had the opportunity to hear Michael Morrison, a former NBA Basketball player, speak. Mr. Morrison’s message focused on promoting positive choices with young people in the areas of teen anxiety and need. He emphasized that students really need to look at their lives from a perspective of what is possible, rather than what has already transpired. Mr. Morrison encouraged students to use their own personal motivations to do good for themselves, for others, and to show other students they can choose to a better way through life’s challenges. This awesome experience was made possible by local businesses and we extend a special thank you to them for making this opportunity possible for our students!

ALO Students Visit University of Iowa: Linn-Mar ALO students enjoyed the opportunity to go on a campus visit to the University of Iowa on Thursday October 20th led by the Center for Diversity and Enrichment. During their visit, students sat in on a panel where they asked current U of I students questions about their college experiences. Following the student panel they participated in a walking tour of the campus. To conclude the visit they ate lunch in one of the residence halls with current U of I students. The Center for Diversity and Enrichment enjoyed having ALO students visit campus so much that they have asked for a more permanent



partnership to take place between Linn-Mar ALO and the University of Iowa. ALO is looking forward to an ongoing relationship with the University of Iowa and the Center for Diversity and Enrichment. *ALO is one of the Linn-Mar student support groups for students of color focusing on Accountability, Leadership, & Opportunity.*

Goal #6: Empower Achievement (Build)

Construct physical learning environments using fiscally responsible and sustainable practices.

Year 1:

Strategic Initiatives	Measures of Success
Facilities Restructure	During the 2016-17 school year the Board of Education, with feedback from community patrons, will approve a long-term facility structure plan that benefits all Linn-Mar students.
	Determine what the most appropriate and cutting edge learning environments look like at each of the grade level configurations and prioritize goals for the physical components for each of the environments.
	Establish a communication campaign to foster support and approval of district restructure needs.
	Develop a funding plan to support 10-year restructure plan, including the outline of a possible bond campaign strategy.
	Engage architects, engineers, demographers and other applicable services to assist in the planning and implementation of the facility restructure plan.
	Identify an off-site facility for Applied Innovation Center. Occupy Westfield addition.
Facilities Preservation	Address priority needs to improve district facilities by actively maintaining 10-year facilities and preventative maintenance plan, including identifying energy-saving opportunities.
	Develop a funding plan to support 10-year preventative maintenance schedule.
	Complete walkthroughs with principals, Crisis Committee members, and Operations & Maintenance to determine building needs in reference to safety and security.
Operational Resource Allocation	Work to optimize resources (buildings, personnel, programs, etc.) to ensure they are utilized efficiently and effectively.
	Explore procedures to effectively evaluate programs from a financial aspect to ensure resources are being utilized to full potential.
	Continually review categorical funding streams to ensure resources are being properly spent and that all expenditures are properly allocated.

Refer to the Strategic Plan for Year 2 Strategic Initiatives and Measures of Success.

Update on Goal #6: Empower Achievement (Build)

Construct physical learning environments using fiscally responsible and sustainable practices.

Architect Request for Proposal: A request for proposal (RFP) was issued to prospective architectural firms to assist the district in facilities and capital bond planning services. It is the intent of the district to select one firm that will provide master planning, conceptual design, and community engagement services for the district's future capital bond campaign. It is also the intent of the district, pending a successful bond campaign, that the selected firm will be engaged to provide detailed architectural, engineering, interior, and construction monitoring services for those projects approved within the capital bond package. In preparation of completing their proposals, several firms have scheduled on-site meetings and/or tours with district staff. Proposals are due back November 18th and then administration will make a recommendation to the Board by the December 12th meeting.

High School Remodel:

1. Punch list work continues throughout the building.
2. Phase 2 of the south classrooms is scheduled for completion on 11/11 with occupancy scheduled for 11/14.
3. Phase 3 of south classrooms will begin on 11/14 with demo of ceilings, lighting, and flooring.
4. Work on the two sets of restrooms in the south phase continues with ceiling tile work and fixture installation. This work is scheduled to be completed on 12/6.
5. Area C corridors (south end of the High School) painting has started. Ceiling grid is scheduled to be completed by 12/2 with flooring scheduled to be completed by 12/9.
6. Conference room and print shop area work has started with concrete and block installation. This area is scheduled to be completed on 1/6/2017.
7. Lecture hall hard ceiling work is scheduled to be completed on 11/18. Painting and ceiling grid is scheduled for completion by 12/9. Concrete work for rams and risers will begin by 12/19 with completion scheduled for 1/6/2017.
8. Railing work has started throughout the building.
9. Athletic training room work has started with ceiling and flooring work to be completed by 11/18.
10. Health offices will be completed on 11/4.
11. Cafeteria stairwell work is scheduled to be completed over winter break.

Westfield Addition:

1. Heating/air conditioning ductwork installation has started and will be completed over winter break.
2. Classrooms will start to receive cabinets starting on 11/16.
3. Window installation is scheduled to start on 11/21.
4. Tile work in restrooms is complete with fixture work to start in November.
5. All rooms have received wall paint.
6. Classroom doors are all hung and receiving hardware.
7. Exterior work has started (grading and sidewalk installation is complete).
8. Contractor is anticipating the project to be ready for occupancy by the end of January.

Achievements and Honors:

Smarter Lunchroom Award: Congratulations to Novak Elementary for winning the Bronze HealthierUS School Challenge Smarter Lunchroom Award! In winning the award, Novak Elementary is considered one of the healthiest schools in the nation and one of 72 Iowa schools who have won this prestigious award. The award recognizes nutrition and physical activity excellence in schools. To learn more about the award, visit the [USDA's HealthierUS School Challenge](#) web page.

Breaking Barriers Award: Congratulations to Oak Ridge Middle School on being awarded the Breaking Barriers Award! This prestigious award will be given to Oak Ridge for their excellent work with Hispanic students. The State Board of Education will present the award during a ceremony on Thursday, January 19th.

Varsity Volleyball Heading to State: The girls' Varsity Volleyball Team has earned a trip to State! They beat Pleasant Valley in three games (25-13, 25-6 and 25-18) during the Class 5A Regional Finals. Linn-Mar (33-8) will face Ankeny (37-5) in the first round of the State Tournament on Tuesday, November 8th at 2:00 PM at the US Cellular Center. Congratulations to the team and to Ellie Anderson, Emilee McGowan and Megan Renner for being named as part of the conference's First Team. Congratulations also go out to Coach Teresa Bair for being named Coach of the Year.



Cross Country Teams Compete at State: Congratulations to the Linn-Mar boys' and girls' Cross Country teams for their efforts at the State meet held October 29th in Fort Dodge. The boys placed 8th with Ryan Murphy placing 5th overall. The girls placed 13th with Maddie Mann placing 17th overall.

Cross Country All Conference Honors: Dalton Gosch, Ryan Murphy, and Colin Johnston were named to the conference Cross Country First Team. Dalton Gosch was also named Athlete of the Year. Johnny Seitz and Sam Vezina made Second Team. Congratulations to Coach Kyle Hoffman for being named Coach of the Year!

Iowa Opus Honor Choir: A total of 27 Linn-Mar students were recently selected for participation in the 31st Annual Iowa Opus Honor Choir Festival. Over 3,000 students were nominated statewide by their directors for 720 positions in the four Opus Honor Choirs. The students will perform at the Opus Honor Choir Festival on Thursday, November 17th at 4 PM in CY Stephens Auditorium at the Iowa State Center in Ames. Congratulations, to the following Linn-Mar vocalists!

5th/6th Grade Choir: Kinsey Widdel (EH), Rusalka Rogers (EH), Tate Whitaker-Smith (EH), Lucie Scott (WF), Kamryn Kramer (EX), Sydney Kleist (EX), Riley Cronin (EX), Sabyn Jones (EX), Emily Brennom (EX), Kate Flugstad (OR), Kamryn White (LG), Kaitlyn Johnson (BW), Kelsey Barr (WE), Dylan Ascher (IC), Ava Macek (IC), Kaia Sjobakken (IC), Kylie Wassmer (IC), Alyssa Newport (NE).

7th/8th Grade Treble Clef Choir: Rylee Reid (EX), Eve Christensen (EX), and Vivian Shanley (OR).

7th/8th Grade Bass Clef Choir: Cavan O'Hara (OR) and Chase Staker (OR)

9th Grade Mixed Choir: Josie Brendes (HS), Ashley Wernimont (HS), Megan Renz (HS), and Arnab Bhushan (Alternate - HS).

Teacher of the Week: Congratulations to Laura Azelborn, High School Science Teacher, for being chosen as the KDAT Top Teacher of the Week!



Girls' Swimming and Diving: Congratulations to the Varsity Girls' Swim Team for placing 5th overall at regionals. Kelsey Drake was named Outstanding Swimmer by capturing the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:04.69 (the 8th fastest in state history). Kelsey was also named All Conference First Team in the 100 meter butterfly and breaststroke and Mississippi Valley Conference, Mississippi Division Swimmer of the Year. In diving, Brooklyn Corey, Katie Culver, and Lauren Fasnacht all qualified for state with Brooklyn being named as All-conference First Team.



20th America Reads Day: America Reads 2016 was the culmination of five school districts in the metro area working together. Linn-Mar hosted more than 397 readers with more than 628 placements. This celebration of literacy allows our community to be actively involved in our classrooms. Guest readers included local media, law enforcement, firefighters, the Coe basketball team, RoughRiders, school personnel, Playtime Poppy, pets and their readers, grandparents, and parents. Thank you to everyone who made this event a success for our students!

Iowa All-State Music Festival: A total of 45 high school students, out of the 87 that auditioned, were accepted to participate in the Iowa All-State Music Festival. Congratulations to the following students:

All-State Orchestra:

- 4th year: Ji Yeon In, Deanna Newhouse, Jordan Turner, and Noah Wick
- 3rd year: Bradley Affolter, Jacob Lam, and Kathy Zhou
- 2nd year: Grace Ahlers, Caleb Almasi, Selena Aschbrenner, James Hecht, Alan Liang, Daniel Low, Joel Peterson, and Sydney Walther
- 1st year: Nathan Bellows, Gloria Chang, Marissa Good, and Sophie Hagen.
- Alternates: Heather Stultz, Morgan Lu, and Jessica Wang.

All-State Chorus:

- 4th year: Connor DeJong
- 3rd year: Melaena Holm and Nick House
- 2nd year: Niharika Annira, Abby Good, Emma Gostonczik, Daniel O'Hara, Shannon Shorter, and Bryce Spencer
- 1st year: Katie Andreasen, Megan Callahan, Ian Crumley, Akash Gururaja, Michael Kuchera, Luke Sloterdijk and Jasmine Webster-Moore
- Alternate: Claire Kopesky

All-State Band:

- 3rd year: Kirsten Loynachan
- 2nd year: Morgan Jensen and Sam Kelly
- 1st year: Roxanna Barbulescu, Katie Greiner, Jaeden Hansen, John Herschberger, Anna Kelly, Ben Lepsch and Ashley Schmidt
- Alternates: Tracy Lansing, Nathan Nowzari, and Amy Kenneson



World Food Prize Global Youth Institute: High School Senior Ekta Nanda was nominated to attend the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute that took place October 13-15 in Des Moines. The event is part of the Borlaug Dialogue International Symposium and drew more than 1,500 people from over 60 countries to discuss world hunger and food security issues. Founded by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Dr. Norman Borlaug, the World Food Prize was created to recognize and inspire great achievements in improving the quality, quantity and availability of food in the world. Congratulations to Ekta!