

**Buker Elementary School
Improvement Plan**



Buker Elementary School

**School Improvement Plan
2009-2010**

**Buker Elementary School
Improvement Plan**

Table of Contents

Mission Statement	Page 3
Core Values	Page 4
Vision Statement	Page 5
Description of Buker Elementary School	Page 7
School Council Membership	Page 8
School Council Plan 2009-2010	Page 9
Goal: Improve Performance in ELA and Math	Page 9
Goal: Articulate a K-5 Curriculum	Page 12
Goal: Citizenship	Page 13

Mission Statement

The mission of Hamilton-Wenham Regional
Schools
is to educate
the children of Hamilton and Wenham
to become knowledgeable,
healthy,
responsible and
productive adults.

**Buker Elementary School
Improvement Plan
Core Values
of the Hamilton-Wenham Regional Schools**

A clear vision of how we will accomplish our mission is summarized by our Core Values. These values represent the principles we hold central to our purpose and provide benchmarks for judging our policies, programs and performance. The principles these Core Values express provide a firm, unchanging foundation for our mission and a framework to guide our judgment. Our core values address each of the four major components of our mission – school philosophy, curriculum, pedagogy and learning environment.

School Philosophy

- **“We Care for Ourselves, Other People and Our Environment”** describes the human qualities we want our children to possess and that will guide our policies, programs and behavior.

Curriculum

- **“Educating the Whole Child”** describes the need to prepare our children for a complex and changing world and the range of knowledge, skills and experiences we must provide to achieve that.

Pedagogy

- **“All Children Can and Will Learn”** describes the expectation that our children will achieve to their potential and outlines the pedagogic principles we will apply to guide them in that endeavor.

Learning Environment

- **“Excellence in Teaching and Leading”** describes the expectations we have for our educational community – teachers, administrators, parents and community members – to be role models for our young and to provide the learning environment necessary for the other three values to be achieved.

**Buker Elementary School
Improvement Plan
Vision Statement for Today and Beyond**

The Buker School is a special place that is characterized by a strong sense of community. A partnership exists between parents and staff members in order to promote the successful education of the whole child. As we look to the future of the Buker School, the guiding focus of our continuous improvement is the commitment that we all share to a common goal of providing the most enriching and meaningful learning experience for all of our children.

The Buker environment is a safe and nurturing place in which our children and adults learn. It is a friendly place that is fueled by the energy and excitement of elementary education. Our school is a place that children look forward to coming to each and every day. Parents are welcomed visitors and valued contributors to the learning process. A sense of pride permeates everyone who belongs to our community.

Respect is a fundamental tenet of our community. Children are respected for their individuality. Teachers are respected as professionals. Parents are respected as partners in their children's school experience. All community members interact respectfully with each other throughout the day to day operations of the organization.

The academic focus of the Buker School is designed around building a strong foundation of basic skills while challenging students to strive toward their learning potential. We are responsible for preparing our children to be productive and contributing citizens through middle school, high school, and into their adult lives. Our students develop literacy skills that will transform them into enthusiastic and effective readers and writers. Our curriculum promotes opportunities for children to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills. Classroom instruction actively engages children.

Teachers and staff members are involved in the curriculum review process. Our teachers skillfully incorporate the state curriculum frameworks and sound research into their creative classroom instruction. We are all committed to professional growth in order to best meet the needs of our students.

Buker Elementary School Improvement Plan

Vision Statement (continued)

The comprehensive education of the whole child requires that we address the social and emotional needs of our students. The Buker School's sense of community and expectation of mutual respect provides the appropriate climate for the healthy social and emotional development of our children. We make children aware of their choices and of the consequences both positive and negative of those choices. Children and adults are held accountable for their behavior and the decisions they make.

The future of the Buker School is a bright one. Our community is defined by dedicated children and adults who are invested in continuous improvement.

**Buker Elementary School
Improvement Plan
Description of Buker Elementary School**

Buker Elementary School has an enrollment of approximately 250 students in Kindergarten through Fifth grade. Buker offers both half and full day Kindergarten, and two classes at each grade level from First through Fifth grade. This student population is supported by approximately 45 staff members.

The school contains 12 classrooms; centers for Language Arts and Student Services; a gymnasium for Physical Education, an all-purpose room for lunch and assemblies, a Technology Lab, Music room, Art room and Library.

The Buker School Community includes an active roster of volunteer services. Parents volunteer in classrooms to provide reading and mathematics support. Our parent organization, "The Friends of Buker", has a mission to "Promote school spirit and provide additional resources to supplement the educational process at the Buker School."

An active spirit of community is developed among the faculty and students of Buker School through activities such as:

- The Kids Care Club
- 5th Grade – Kindergarten Buddy System

**Buker Elementary School
Improvement Plan
School Council Membership
2009-2010**

Brian O'Donoghue, Principal, Chairperson

Teachers

Nichole Dupuis-Miller, Grade K (term expires 2011)

Kathy O'Shea, Grade 1 (term expires 2012)

Parents

Amy Pasquarello (term expires 2011)

Kennon Anderson (term expires 2012)

Martha Rowe (term expires 2010)

Community Member

Nancy McLean