

John Stark's Middle School Mission Statement

Marc Gold

William Paterson University

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### **Leadership Mission Statement**

**Vision:** Rooted in the tradition of transformational education, John Stark’s Middle School will be a vibrant educational institution providing integrated technologies, responsibility, collaboration, and academic excellence for all students and teachers within the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Mission Statement:** John Stark’s Middle School is to ensure academic, social, and technological success of all students by providing in-depth support within the community that encourages and develops each student’s interests and abilities to prepare them to become 21<sup>st</sup> century learners. We will provide a risk-free and safe environment for all students, teachers, and employees to ensure all individuals receive the wide assortment of opportunities accessible to them and endorse integrity and responsibility for their own education. We will uphold trustworthy effective communication and collaboration between school, home, and the community.

The mission statement that I will use to compare and contrast with my leadership mission statement is the South Orange and Maplewood School District’s Mission Statement (2008). Some similarities that are found within both of our mission statements are the values of responsibility, collaboration, communication, and academic excellence. These four values are vital for any educational institution to succeed within the field of education, today. Some contrasting views within both of our mission statements are the values of critical thinkers, technology, and providing a safe environment. SOMSD has critical thinkers within their mission statement; I personally believe if you achieve academic excellence you will become a critical thinker. Technology and providing a safe environment have vital within our educational system by providing the necessary resources for students to achieve in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and doing it within a safe environment. Therefore, I am extremely pleased with my mission statement because my mission statement prepares students and faculty for the 21<sup>st</sup> century of education.

Once the mission statement has been established, within the school, it will become apparent as you walk throughout the school. The classrooms will be enriched in 21<sup>st</sup> century technologies, differentiated instruction, students taking educational risks, and collaboration between faculty, administration, and students. The climate of the school will feel like a risk-free environment that will promote trust, empathy, respect, and responsibility. The sounds you hear, as you walk through the hallways, are rich and professional peer-to-peer communication between all parties, collaboration between teachers, faculty, students, and community, along with rigorous instruction that requires in-depth conversations to take place within the classrooms.

It will be apparent who the overall leader of the school is, which would be the principle of the school who is the visionary, politician, and storyteller. However, the principle needs other leaders to setup up to take ownership of the mission statement, they will be able to persuade other individuals to believe in the vision. There will be a historian who defines where you are today. There will also be an anthropological sleuth that examines the culture of the school. There will be a healer that will act as an agent of change that heals loss and comforts grieving.

John Stark's Middle School is a transformational school that will incorporate as many parties/committees as possible into the decision making process; therefore, individuals that are involved in the decision making process take ownership of decisions that are made rather than decisions dictated to them.

Everyone within the school believes and values responsibility, trust, collaboration, are culturally aware, technologically savvy, and strive for academic excellence for all teachers, students, parents, and community members, alike.

The implications of the roles of teachers, students, parents, and community members in this school is that if they have faith in the beliefs and values listed above, then, is that they will

put all of their differences aside, in order, to ensure the success of the school and all of the students.

The reason that I have created the vision of a vibrant educational institution providing integrated technologies, responsibility, collaboration, and academic excellence for all students and teachers within the 21<sup>st</sup> century; is because within my school district I have, often, seen similarities and differences of my ideal vision; therefore, I wanted to create a vision that is superlative.

A similarity that emerges within my vision and my school districts is academic excellence. Within my school district, leaders try to ensure academic excellence for all teachers and students by providing a before-school program for struggling learners, a wide variety of educational resources for students and teachers, differentiated workshops, the allowance of teachers to observe other teachers, and much more. Within my school, I will strive for academic excellence by ensuring the attributes listed above are involved in my school, along with transition periods within the school day for struggling learners and for students to be challenged, as well as individualizing classrooms by finding out students' strengths and weakness within particular skill set areas based on standardized test results, along with district-wide summative assessments.

A difference that occurs with my school district's vision and my personal vision is the implementation of collaboration. Within my school district, there is collaboration, but often it comes from teachers having to find personal time to setup collaboration between co-teachers. My vision calls for co-teachers having a common prep, in order, to collaborate on lesson plans, assessments, modifications, etc... Another issue that I see with collaboration within my school district is that there is no transparency between committees. When a committee is setup in our

district, at times that particular committee will act as its own entity and will not realize the affect it has on other committees that exist in the district. My vision calls for transparency when committees are formed; therefore, each committee can understand what each of the other committees is proposing and can, then, assess how each committee is going to influence the system of the school.



<b>Image</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shareholders in the school community will recognize the diversity that exists within the school. Diversity of students, staff, cultures, lessons, resources, and much more.</li> <li>• Shareholders in the school community will perceive that everyone within the school is in harmony with one another. Which is exhibited through open, trusting, honest relationships.</li> <li>• Shareholders in the school community will see how well organized the staff and students are. Which the organization of the school improves pedagogy and academic excellence.</li> </ul>
<b>Culture</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everyone in the building believes that all students have the ability to improve his/her performance.</li> <li>• Everyone in the building is responsible for his/her responsibilities and trusts one another to collaborate his/her efforts to complete a project, lesson plan, curriculum map, etc...</li> <li>• Everyone is committed to effective communication within and outside of the school to ensure that things get done in an economic fashion.</li> </ul>
<b>Systems</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee's of PLC's, student recognition, extra curricular activities, commencement, team leader meetings, curriculum mapping, co-teaching collaboration, and many more committees have transparency and communication with one another to ensure everyone is on the same page.</li> <li>• Risk-free environment where all students, faculty and administration have an open door policy to ask questions and attempt things to improve educational performance.</li> <li>• Transition periods for enhance learning for struggling learners and advance proficient learners.</li> </ul>
<b>Accomplishments</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All students and teachers have in-depth knowledge technology resources and are able to manipulate the technology in order to enhance academic excellence.</li> <li>• More than 90% of students have passed state standardized tests-hence majority of the students have achieved academic excellence.</li> <li>• School has been provided a five-year grant to provide all classrooms 21<sup>st</sup> century technologies.</li> <li>• Highest student attendance rate in the county for the past three years.</li> </ul>

## References

(2008, December 18). South Orange and Maplewood School District. *Mission Statement*.

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