

**Vision:**

Students academically and socially prepared to enter Middle School.

**Mission:**

To create a school wide community that focuses on a climate of cooperation, academic excellence, and social-emotional competence. Through explicit modeling of behaviors and expectations, students and staff will be responsible, respectful, safe, and will persevere in all academic and social endeavors.

**Description of School and Community:**

Nellie Stone Johnson Community School is located in the Hawthorne Neighborhood. The Hawthorne neighborhood has a very diverse population with 60% of the community being African American, 12% Asian, 12% White, and 10% Hispanic.

- Nellie Stone Johnson serves a diverse group of 8500 High-5 through 5th grade students.
- According to our current demographic data, our school community is 65% African American, 35% Hispanic, 3% Asian, 1% Native American and 1% Caucasian.
- Nellie Stone Johnson will be a Community Partnership school and part of the North Side Achievement Zone. This multi-year effort is part of a plan to revitalize the Minneapolis Public Schools with goals to increase achievement for all students, close the achievement gap, improve attendance and decrease suspensions.
- Our school's focus is on raising student achievement in both reading and math for all students. We provide rigorous instruction and clear expectations for our students and emphasize that strong instructional planning will lead to student achievement.
- Our school provides a safe, positive environment that promotes learning. All of our teachers participate in weekly instructional planning around literacy and math to continually increase instructional effectiveness.
- Students receive core content (reading, math, science, social studies) from their classroom teachers and essential content (physical education, music, media, and art) from specialists.
- We offer extended day through the ALC/Beacons Program which compliments the day school program.
- The school also implements Responsive Classroom, Positive Behavior Intervention and Support and ENVoY to encourage positive school climate.
- There are many opportunities during the school year to develop a connection with families and the community during school hours as well as during our evening events.
- Our parent and community liaison and the principal will work closely with individuals and organizations to come up with a plan that is in the best interests of our students. Organizations within our community that partner with our school are NAZ, Serve MN and the YMCA.

**Overview of School Improvement Plan (this includes a summary of the goals, strategies and professional development within the plan, as well as how the school will address the MMR/FR designation**

NSJ will focus on five school improvement strategies:

- Instructional planning, Guided math
- Guided Reading
- Behavior/Climate school wide
- Language acquisition and family engagement for the next 3-5 years.

Embedded in these strategies will be Action Steps that offer support and guidance toward attaining specific school goals. Instructional planning will take place twice a week with a focus on literacy and math. In addition teachers will examine student work, discuss best practices, reviewing student assessment data, and ensure that instruction is aligned to individual student need. Family Engagement strategies that regularly engage the school community to inform them of progress toward the design and implementation of instruction and

interventions to meet student need and to give them an opportunity to provide input.

Family engagement strategies will also seek to provide ongoing mechanisms for family and community involvement in school activities, volunteer opportunities, and other forms of community support. NSJ will engage school staff and the surrounding community to share reform leadership in the planning phase as well as throughout implementation. The goal of this strategy is to provide appropriate social-emotional and community-oriented services and supports for students and families.

Student Engagement strategies that focus on student centered approached to learning. The goal of this strategy is to establish schedules and strategies that provide increased learning time for all students. NSJ has an ambitious agenda outlined in the School Improvement Plan. Due in part to our performance on the MCA in both math and reading, we have been identified as a Priority school. Therefore, we have identified specific goals in reading and math based upon MCA performance our district's strategic plan. (DATA: NSJ is going from a Pk-8 building this year to a Pk- grade 5 for next year. Once we have data specific to these grade elves we will be adding our reading, math, and climate goals. we did not have this data at this time) To accomplish these goals, we have chosen Action Steps that will support both reading and math in addition to strategies that focus on specific content areas. For literacy, we have instituted the Readers and Writers Workshop model. This will allow for differentiation in reading and writing instruction. This alone will not meet the needs of all learners, and therefore we have also explored providing more intensive support for our struggling readers by providing more time on specific reading skill development. Using various interventions and programs, students are given targeted assistance to address reading deficiencies. This is in addition to their participation in the core literacy program.

In math, we have fully implemented a new mathematics program kindergarten through grade 5, Investigations. We are pleased with the initial results, but know we have a lot of refinements to accomplish. We will be working diligently on using the formative measures to adjust the instruction to meet the needs of all learners during core instructional time. We also implemented guided math this year and we are seeing an increase in both math achievement and behavior during this time.