

2024 – 2025

# **South Newton High School**

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

A large, stylized, grey mascot logo is centered on the page. The mascot is a bear-like creature with a large head, small eyes, and a wide, toothy grin. It has a thick, white outline. The logo is positioned behind the text.

**Rebel Family, United We Grow**

**Superintendent: Mr. Casey Hall**

**Principal: Mr. Josef Keller**

**Athletic Director/Dean of Students: Mr. Chris Bell**

## **School Mission Statement**

South Newton High School provides opportunities for all of our learners to achieve a successful future.

## **School Vision Statement**

South Newton High School will strive to become an exemplary learning community that supports student academic achievement through meaningful academic instruction. We will address the needs of all learners and strive to create a differentiated learning environment in which ALL students are capable of becoming productive citizens.

## **Belief Statements**

- We believe that all students deserve to be surrounded by a structured environment where adults not only hold high expectations through rigorous curriculum & engaging instruction for every student but also clearly define those expectations to every student.
- We believe that all students deserve a vast array of options for the future.
- We believe that all students deserve sound educational and career guidance so they can develop meaningful educational and career goals.
- We believe that all students deserve career pathways that will lead them to their personal educational and career goals.
- Parents, students, educators, school board, and the entire community are responsible for implementing and achieving the school's goals.
- A safe and comfortable environment along with mutual respect promotes student learning.

## **Corporation Mission Statement**

The mission of the South Newton School Corporation is to educate and empower children, youth, and adults for full participation in a rapidly changing society and to build, sustain and extend a learning community which improves the quality of life for all members of the Corporation, regardless of race, gender, national origin, disability, or socioeconomic level.

## **Technology Vision**

All South Newton technology stakeholders will integrate appropriate technology to enable them to succeed in their educational and career goals.

## **Accreditation**

South Newton High School is accredited by the Indiana Department of Education.

## **School Improvement Committee Members**

Angela Vena, Brandy Pitstick, Jennifer Kindig, Matthew Armbruster, Josef Keller

## **Awards**

South Newton High School was recognized for our hard work by receiving a 4-Star rating in 2014, based on 2012/2013 data by the Indiana Department of Education. This is a great accomplishment for our students, staff, and community.

In addition, in 2017, US News and World Report ranked South Newton High School #34 in the state (silver rating.) More recently, in 2020 and 2023, South Newton High School was ranked as one of the best high schools nationally.

The high school counseling department, directed by Laura Robbins, was awarded the Indiana Gold Star Counseling Award in 2015 as well as received the nation's highest recognition, the American School Counselor Association's Recognized ASCA Model Program or RAMP Award. These awards are based on delivering a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program. Dedication and hard work have made all these awards possible. The Indiana Department of Education has changed the counseling recognition program to a new program called Carrying the Torch to Student Success. Our Guidance Director is currently leading the school through the two-year process to earn the Gold Star recognition, the highest level of recognition offered through the program. In 2023, Laura Robbins was named as the CTE Secondary School Counselor of the Year by the Indiana Office of Career and Technical Education.

In March 2015, South Newton High School received along with North Newton High School a CTE grant from the State of Indiana for approximately \$454,000.00. We concentrated on two CTE areas: precision farming and aquaculture. Drones, Project Lead the Way (PLTW) equipment, and Kubota tractors with GPS equipment were purchased. Students took ownership of these innovative items and worked very diligently to improve their knowledge in these areas. Because of this cutting-edge technology in a high school, several news and magazine articles have been written giving South Newton Ag Department positive, public exposure. This class involves a cross-curricular merging of agriculture and technology (PLTW).

### **School and Community Information**

South Newton Schools are centrally located on 60 acres in Jefferson Township in Newton County in northwest Indiana. Students who live in Washington, Iroquois, Grant, and Jefferson Townships in Newton County and York Township in Benton County attend South Newton Schools. The corporation consists of 195.5 square miles. The school district consists of one elementary, middle, and high school. There are approximately 850 students enrolled at South Newton School Corporation this school year. Over the years, the student population has declined due to industry moving out of our community. More recently, the population has stabilized. The elementary, middle, and high schools are located on the same campus.

The community is rich in agriculture production and the agribusiness enterprises needed to support this production. Over the last several years, several small businesses have moved out of the area; however, a task force in one of our towns is trying to help make the community more inviting for small businesses to return or start new. Some light manufacturing still remains in the area providing some high-tech industry to the community. The community supports the educational programs with volunteers and financial resources. It also provides individuals who are willing to serve on numerous committees to enhance the function of the educational community.

Major changes in the technical, vocational, and academic curriculum have taken place over the years. Cooperative planning with parents, students, staff, administration, business leaders, and community

resource people has driven this change process. Many staff members and administrators have participated in local, state, and national workshops to glean the most current information regarding educational curriculum. Some of the major changes that have taken place include:

- Combination of three elementary schools into one facility.
- Major renovation at the South Newton Middle and Senior High School every two years with bond money.
- Purchase of Chromebooks for every student in the summer of 2022.
- Project Lead the Way began in the fall of 2001.
- A preschool, all-day kindergarten, and several after-school programs function with support from Newton County Step Ahead, Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, and other agencies.
- 1:1 implementation grade 3-12, 2014/2015; K-2 iPad implementation, 2015/2016.
- Upgrade of technology infrastructure (2023).
- New teacher evaluation system (Standards for Success).
- Curriculum alignment to the Indiana State Standards: documenting the standards in the curriculum.
- Expansion of dual credit agreements with colleges, currently 24 dual credit classes as well as 5 Advanced Placement (AP) classes (English 11, English 12, Calculus, Pre-Calculus, and Biology).
- Bi-weekly Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings.

Our corporation has demonstrated its commitment to making the most improvements with the amount of dollars we have received. We believe the infrastructure is in place to facilitate the vocational and academic change that needs to happen to enable all of our students to succeed.

### **The Past, Present, and Future of School Improvement at South Newton High School**

In 2015/2016, our staff felt the need for our students to create stronger relationships with one another and their teachers. This bonding would eventually lead to having 30 minutes each day dedicated to student-teacher interaction. We called this program PRIDE – Personal Responsibility In Developing Excellence. PRIDE allows for individuals from different cultural backgrounds to integrate comfortably within a safe environment thus gaining confidence and assistance to grow and develop academically and socially.

Each PRIDE is made up of a few freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Tutoring is available some days to help our academically struggling students. PRIDE time is designated as follows:

- Monday – Devoted to the development of relationships between students and teachers
- Tuesday and Thursday – Club and class meetings
- Wednesday - Closed for enrichment:
  - Preparation for the SAT/PSAT
  - Social-Emotional Development
  - Leadership Development
  - Credit Recovery
- Friday -mentorship program with South Newton Elementary School and South Newton Middle School

In the fall of 2014, South Newton High School began our 1:1 technology program. Staff development and several committee meetings took place in order to prepare our teaching staff for the upcoming

change in the delivery of instruction. This computer initiative enhanced student learning and challenged students to become prepared digitally for the upcoming world in which they will live. In the fall of 2022, we purchased Chromebooks for grades 9-12 as our third iteration of 1:1 learning.

## **Technology**

Our infrastructure has been upgraded to 10 GB, and we have added to our wireless capacity and invested in a new firewall/content filter. South Newton has increased our bandwidth to 2 GB. This upgrade has opened the door to several electronic curriculum-based lessons. Now teachers can video stream much more easily and consistently. We have also increased our wireless access points to 85 units, allowing more access consistency as students move from one classroom to another. In addition, we have added 5 outside access points on campus, and Gmail accounts have been added for all students in grades 6-12. Five virtual reality sets have been purchased to enhance academics.

## **Learning Environment Implementation & Student Expectations**

- Teachers have developed an online presence
- Teachers have moved instructional practices to a digital format vs. paper
- Teachers will continue to learn current educational technology practices through weekly professional development “pops”
- Teachers will follow remote learning protocols and expectations
- Students will follow teacher remote learning expectations and verify attendance
- Students will adhere to the technology handbook, guidelines, and contract
- Students will meet classroom expectations in the 1:1 environment

## **Curriculum**

For a small school, South Newton High School offers a wide range of courses to meet student needs. Not only do we offer traditional courses for graduation, we are also fortunate enough to offer several career and technical education courses as well. Our course offerings are as follows (AP/Dual credit courses in **bold, italics**):

- English – 9, 10, 11, 12, English 9/10 Honors, English as a New Language, ***AP English Literature, AP English Language***
- Math – Algebra I & II, Algebra II: Finance, Geometry, Integrated Math, Finite Math, ***AP Precalculus, AP Calculus***
- Science – Biology, Honors Biology, Chemistry I & II, Integrated Chemistry/Physics, Anatomy and Physiology, Advanced Science: Special Topics, ***AP Biology***
- Social Studies – World History, US History, Economics, US Government, Psychology, Sociology, ***AP US History***
- World Languages – Spanish I, II, III, IV
- Physical Education – PE I & II, Elective PE, Elective PE-Weightlifting, Health and Wellness
- Music – Choir, Band, Applied Music

- Fine Arts – Digital Design I & II, Commercial Photography, Interactive Media, Drawing I, Painting, Advanced 2D Art, Ceramics, Sculpture, Advanced 3D Art, Fiber Arts, Advanced Fiber Arts
- Information Technology – Principles of Computing, Information Technology Support, IT Support II Information Technology Fundamentals, Networking I, Networking II: Infrastructure, Networking II: Servers, Networking II: Cybersecurity, Networking and Cybersecurity Operations, Introduction to Computer Science, Computer Science I, Computer Science II: Programming, Computer Science II: Informatics, Computer Science, Topics in Computer Science
- Agriculture – ***Principles of Agriculture, Advanced Life Science Animals, Advanced Life Science Food, Animal Science, Horticultural Science I, Landscape Management I, Natural Resources, Plant and Soil Science, Agribusiness Management, Agricultural Power, Structure and Technology I, II, III, Agriculture Structures Fabrication and Design, Greenhouse and Soilless Production, Precision Agriculture, Crop Management, Landscape and Turf Management***, Supervised Agricultural Experience, ***CTE Pilot Integrated Tech in Agriculture***
- Trade and Industrial Education – Principles of Welding Technology, Shielded Metal Arc Welding, Gas Welding Processes, Welding Technology I & II, ***Cosmetology***
- Family and Consumer Science – Preparing for College and Careers, Principles of Teaching, Child and Adolescent Development, Teaching and Learning, Early Childhood Education I & II, Education Professions I & II, Principles of Culinary and Hospitality, Nutrition, Hospitality Management
- Health Science – ***Health Science I: Introduction to Health Careers***, Health Science II: Physical Therapy, ***Medical Terminology***, Principles of Exercise Science, Kinesiology, Human Performance
- Credit Recovery – Edgenuity courses as needed
- Graduation Pathway Requirements – Community Service, Capstone Multiple Pathways
- Life Skills – Basic Skill Development

A copy of our curriculum is located in the main office at the High School.

### **Key Practices for Accelerating Student Achievement: High Expectations**

South Newton has provided several classes for students seeking to become college and career ready. Vocational offerings in the area of technology, family and consumer sciences, and agriculture have increased over the years, along with other preparatory classes. Emphasis has been placed on problem-solving skills and higher math skills. Academics have been stressed more in relation to taking post-secondary training after graduation. Even though not every student will attend college, classes are structured to challenge all students.

Numerous courses from core classes to career and technical courses offer dual credit with Ivy Tech Community College. Students are highly encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities. AP Courses are also offered to prepare qualified students for college-level coursework.

## **Collaboration**

Currently, teachers are implementing PLCs (Professional Learning Communities) as part of the school day. PLCs meet bi-weekly for thirty minutes. Teachers in math, science, social studies, and language arts are working with PSAT data for students in the sophomore and junior classes. The PLCs determine gaps in student learning from PSAT data and then deliver targeted thirty-minute lessons to improve the academic performance of those students. Non-core teachers use PLCs to meet in small groups with professionals and teachers in their field of study to discuss student achievement and teaching methods.

## **Guidance**

Each student, plus his or her parents/guardians, conferences with our Guidance Director to complete an accelerated program of study with an in-depth academic or vocational-technical goal. Students now have staff advocates in our PRIDE program. Each teacher has approximately 14 students to assist with classes, grades, and scheduling. The Guidance Director hosts FAFSA workshops for students and parents, prepares scholarship information for all students, and develops targeted lessons to address the social and emotional needs of students.

**Counseling Vision:** South Newton High School's school counseling department addresses students' developmental needs, focuses on prevention, serves as an advocate for every student, uses data to drive the program design, evaluates the counseling program annually, and follows the ASCA ethical standards. We believe that all students deserve sound educational and career guidance so they can develop meaningful educational and career goals. Graduates of South Newton High School are responsible and productive citizens that allow them to become lifelong learners in the 21st century world.

**Counseling Mission:** The mission of the South Newton School Counseling Program is to enable all students to experience long-term educational success by providing equitable access in the area of academic, career & personal-social development; counseling students to overcome barriers that interfere with learning; and advocating for an environment that supports all our students. Through the SNHS school counseling program, all students become successful learners, responsible citizens, and productive members of society.

## **Support**

South Newton provides a structured system of extra help to enable students who may lack adequate preparation to earn credits toward graduation. Students are encouraged to receive teacher tutoring either before or after school on any given day without losing valuable class time. Student tutors are also utilized throughout the year. Students needing a quiet place to study with some teacher help can have this opportunity four days per week for two hours after school with a licensed teacher in our homework-help sessions. Students are offered this opportunity with school-sponsored transportation to each of the three towns the corporation serves. PRIDE also offers time for students to get extra help.

For students who have failed required courses, we offer summer school for English and math as well as credit recovery options throughout the school day.

## **Assessment**

South Newton teachers and staff use student assessment and program evaluation data to continuously improve the school climate, organization, management, curricula, and instruction. With the switch to SAT statewide for accountability, we have moved to the PSAT 9 and PSAT formative assessments for data collection. These assessments are automatically linked with Khan Academy instructional programs for remediation as well as enrichment. Core class teachers meet in PLCs to discuss the needs of students and then deliver targeted lessons during PRIDE.

**Academic Expectations for Students at South Newton High School**

South Newton High School requires 42 credits to graduate and all students are expected to graduate with a Core 40 diploma. Students develop their four-year high school curricular plan at the end of their 8<sup>th</sup>-grade year. Students are encouraged to complete a course in mathematics each year. With a few exceptions, students may only take one language arts class at a time. Accommodations are made for students with individualized educational plans. Edgenuity (online classes) is available for credit recovery in core classes.

**Indian Trails Area Career Center**

Students from South Newton are eligible to participate in certain vocational courses offered at other area schools under the direction of the Indian Trails Area Career Center. These opportunities expand the course selection available to students and will enable them to receive career and technical training in the area that matches their career plans.

**State Testing**

<u>SAT Math Pass Rate</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>State</u>
2021-22	23.8%	30%
2022-23	10%	30%
2023-24		

<u>SAT English Pass Rate</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>State</u>
2021-22	44.4%	49%
2022-23	39%	49%
2023-24		

**School Report Card**

School Year	21/22	22/23
	Approaches Expectations	Approaches Expectations

**Enrollment**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
<b>9</b>	60	60	54	56	46	75
<b>10</b>	55	57	63	73	58	47
<b>11</b>	65	56	55	54	71	56
<b>12</b>	40	65	53	57	58	64
<b>Total Enrolled</b>	220	240	225	240	233	242

### **Professional Development**

South Newton High School utilizes PLCs on a biweekly basis for 30 minutes. Teachers use PSAT data to discuss the academic needs of students and design targeted lessons to address those needs. Teachers also meet monthly for one hour. These meetings include presentations of new teaching methods, discussion of best practices, and integration of technology into the curriculum.

### **Resources**

- Presentations by South Newton staff
- Presentations by local special education cooperative staff
- Presentations by outside speakers

### **Enrollment by Ethnicity**

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>
<b>Caucasian</b>	196	217	201	188	196
<b>Hispanic</b>	20	31	31	33	40
<b>African-American</b>	5	3	4	2	1
<b>Total Students</b>	225	253	238	225	242

### **Free/Reduced Lunch**

<b>Lunch Type</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>
<b>Paid</b>	111	117	112	108	119
<b>Free/Reduced</b>	114	136	126	117	123

### **Special Education**

<b>Education Type</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>
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<b>Special</b>	26	33	33	39	41
<b>General</b>	199	220	205	186	201

South Newton High School employs two licensed special education teachers plus three special education paraprofessionals.

**ELL Education**

	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>
<b>ELL Students</b>	5	5	8	7	10

5.8% - 14 students currently taking the WIDA test

Individual Learning Plans with students’ present levels are provided annually. Students receive accommodations (class and state testing). English New Language class offered with computer-based learning. Students have a resource study hall for assignment completion and support.

**The WIDA Consortium (World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment)**

WIDA supports academic language development and academic achievement for linguistically diverse students through high-quality standards and assessments. WIDA PD is provided by the consortium.

**SAT Composite Score**

<b>Year</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>State Average</b>
<b>2016-2017</b>	1004	1073
<b>2017-2018</b>	1010	1116
<b>2018-2019</b>	1024	1106
<b>2019-2020</b>	1070	1127
<b>2020-2021</b>	1049	1148
<b>2021-2022</b>	961	961
<b>2022-2023</b>	914	959

**Review of Data**

We use PSAT data to gauge growth as well as pinpoint areas of remediation and enrichment.

Even though South Newton High School is relatively small and rural, we do have a diverse cultural population. Although our graduation rate has been lower than the state average at times, strides have

been made and have paid off. Emphasis has been placed on student/parent contact regarding grades, homework, as well as attendance. The socio-economic status of the area has seen a downward spiral in the last 15 years due to industry moving out of the area. Enrollment has declined somewhat over the last fifteen years. This creates difficulties as just one or two student outcomes can skew performance categories. Our free and reduced lunch rate continues to be fairly stable in the mid to upper 50%. Starting this year, South Newton School Corporation will provide school breakfast and lunch free of charge to all students in the district. Students will also not be charged any fees to attend school. Families struggle because of the limited number of high-paying jobs available in the South Newton School District.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION**

Students are encouraged to take seven classes for credit each semester unless he/she has an IEP or ILP. Students may elect to take one study hall per semester. Additional preparation outside the classroom may be necessary for course completion. Students will be enrolled in high school for eight semesters. Conditions may warrant that a student petition the school board for early graduation at the end of seven semesters if all requirements are met according to the state and local school board guidelines. South Newton High School requires 42 credits to receive a diploma. There are four types of diplomas available, depending on courses taken and the level of success earned: General, Core 40, Core 40 with Academic Honors, and Core 40 with Technical Honors. In order to receive an Honors diploma, a student is required to earn 48 specific credits.

**Graduation Pathways** – Our Guidance Director has done an excellent job of informing students and parents of the new pathways. Students need to have 42 credits plus service learning and also meet one of the requirements in the postsecondary readiness competencies. We require all students to complete our service learning program. More details are in our student handbook.

## **Diplomas**

	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
<b>Honors</b>	18 (26%)	14 (34.1%)	13(21%)	13 (28%)	8 (15.7%)	8 (15.1%)	6 (12.7%)
<b>Core 40</b>	39 (56%)	26 (63.4%)	34(55%)	25 (55%)	28 (54.9%)	26 (49%)	17 (36.17%)
<b>General</b>	1	1 (2.4%)	8(13%)	0	4 (7.8%)	9 (16.9%)	11 (23.4%)
<b>Tech. Honors</b>	5 (.08%)	2 (5%)	3(5%)	3 (7%)	0	1 (1.9%)	5 (10.6%)
<b>Academic Technical</b>	4 (.06%)	3 (7.5%)	3(5%)	4 (9%)	10 (19.6%)	9 (17%)	8 (17%)
<b>Certificate of Completion</b>	1	1 (2.5%)	1(2%)	0	1 (2%)	0	0

## Academic Honors Diploma/Core 40 Diploma

All students are encouraged by staff members to obtain a Core 40 or academic honors diploma. Our guidance director meets with students each year to discuss their 4-year plan. Staff members also remind students throughout the school year of the importance of a Core 40 or academic honors diploma.

## Graduation Rate

Year	% Passing	# of Students	State Average %
2017-2018	92.4%	61	88.1%
2018-2019	79.3%	46	87.3%
2019-2020	91.1%	51	87.4%
2020-2021	90.2%	55	86.4%
2021-2022	79.7%	47	86.7%

## Areas of Immediate Improvement

Attendance continues to be an area of needed improvement. Strides have been made, but consistency is needed. Our attendance reporting and notification system has been updated and consistency has been added to help address daily attendance. Attendance letters are sent to parents/guardians at five, seven, and ten days of absence with phone contact at seven and ten as well. Students going beyond the ten-day limit will meet with the attendance committee to discuss the loss of credit and the possibility of earning that credit back.

Also, we continue to struggle with students passing classes. The main reason for failing grades has been assignment completion and turn-in. This school year we have implemented mandatory after-school homework completion time for students with multiple F's or who appear on the F list for multiple weeks. We have a licensed teacher available four days each week for two hours each day.

## Contributing Factors of Absenteeism

- Increase in medical days - poor health
- Increase in court days - increase in incarceration
- Lack of consistent parental involvement in education
- Lack of student motivation to come to school
- Nobody at home to help students prepare for school

## **Parental Involvement**

The school conducts Parent/Teacher conferences once a semester. Parents are encouraged to attend the evening open house-style event. Teachers are also encouraged to reach out to parents of students, especially those struggling in classes, on a regular basis. The administration also sends periodic memos to parents about parent events. The office staff maintains a social media presence to keep parents up to date about school happenings.

## **School Safety Information**

Mrs. Whitney Bartlett (elementary assistant principal), and Mr. Chris Bell (high school dean of students/athletic director) serve as the corporation school safety specialists. All staff members share the responsibility for matters relating to our school's safe environment. Procedures and policies are reviewed with the staff annually. It is the responsibility of all employees to make sure that doors are secure, hallways are monitored, and school safety procedures are followed. Students are encouraged to speak to teachers, the guidance director, and the administration regarding any safety issues that come up in a student's life. Concerns are dealt with in a timely fashion.

Student safety is the top priority and everyone's responsibility. As of the fall of 2019, South Newton has upgraded several security cameras and installed a panic button to lock certain interior doors while automatically calling our local police department. We have also added a device that if a door is left open an alarm will sound until the door is closed. In addition, our local Sheriff's Department has an officer in a vehicle in our parking lot most school days before and after school. We most recently received the Department of Homeland Security's Safe Schools Security Grant to update our camera system to an all-digital, power-over ethernet, system that is consistent campus-wide. This will increase our reaction time to safety situations and allow for quicker recall of security footage.

## **Fire/Tornado Evacuations**

Directions are posted in every classroom. Yearly-updated guidelines explain safety evacuation routes and safe locations in case of a tornado or fire. Red clipboards are in every classroom. These clipboards have a copy of the school-wide safety plan, classroom rosters, and any IEP or 504 plans for any student who may need special assistance during a time of evacuation. This clipboard is taken during all drills. Attendance is taken and any student not with his or her class is reported to the emergency supervisor. If for some reason a student is missing or a problem arises, the clipboard will be used as a signal. Drills for unstructured times will occur throughout the school year. Crisis drills such as lockdown situations are also practiced throughout the year as well.

## **Quick School Safety Reference Guides**

Reference guides are important and serve to outline procedures in the case of an emergency. Each classroom has a copy of this document (lockout, lockdown, evacuation, and shelter). Though no plan can prepare one completely, a consistent, thorough plan that is followed closely by everyone can make an emergency situation less stressful and save lives.

## **Cameras/Audio**

South Newton School Corporation has invested in 75 digital cameras throughout the campus to help keep our students safe. Speaker systems have been placed throughout the entire school corporation grounds. These serve the purpose of being able to address the entire corporation's grounds in case of

an emergency. We have not invested in a school resource officer yet, but we have formed a committee to discuss the possibility of hiring an officer for the school. The Sheriff's office can link into our camera system, and each of the deputies has the ability to enter our school as needed via dedicated entry keys.

## **School Improvement Plan for South Newton High School**

**2023-24**

**GOAL I** – Our goal is to improve our school attendance to 91%.

**Intervention** – A vital component of a good education is good attendance. Traditionally the high school attendance rate has been in the 95% range. In the last three years, our school has seen our average attendance rate dip into the lower 90% or upper 80% range.

**Activities/Strategies** – In order to promote better attendance, we will monitor class attendance each week to determine who has the best attendance. Student conferences will be held at 5 and 7 days of absence. Attendance letters will be given to students during our conference (students will initial the letter) and a copy will be sent home requesting a parent conference when needed. Our attendance committee (six staff members) will be involved this year to meet with students who violate our attendance policy (10 days of absence per semester.) The committee will meet with the student and parent to decide the stipulations for the student to have their credits reinstated. The student could be put on attendance probation for the semester. Attendance data will be posted in the hallway. The class with the best attendance and meeting our goal will be allowed to go to lunch 2-3 minutes early for three days. At the end of each month, we will have a sundae bar during lunch for the winning class. Students with perfect attendance will be recognized every nine weeks with a certificate at our awards program.

### **Yearly Attendance Rate Comparison**

	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>
<b>Attendance Rate</b>	88.16%	90.16%	89.4%

**Our goal will be to increase our attendance rate to 91%.**

**Goal II** – Our goal is to improve our graduation rate to 88%.

**Intervention** – The most important statistic about each cohort is the rate at which the students in the cohort graduate. Our graduation rate has traditionally been higher than the state average, but over the last two years, we have slipped below the state average. One reason for that change is an increase in students moving away from our district and not enrolling in another school. But the primary reason is that many of our students struggle to complete coursework and then fail a class. Once a class is failed, it is difficult for students to get caught up.

**Activities/Strategies** – Students in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade who are not on track to graduate will be assigned extra time during our PRIDE time to complete coursework via Edgenuity. We will monitor student progress during that class and have periodic meetings with those students to discuss their progress. We will also keep track of students who appear on our weekly F list. We will assign students who

regularly appear on the F list to mandatory after-school homework intervention four days a week for two hours until the students do not appear on the F list.

**Our goal will be to improve our graduation rate to 88%.**

**Goal III** – Our goal is to improve our SAT Pass rate in Math to 30% and English to 50%.

**Intervention** – The state of Indiana recently shifted academic test score monitoring away from the ISTEP test to the SAT test. Our students have passed the benchmark score at a level below the state average for both Math and English Language since every student in the Junior has been required to take the SAT.

**Activities/Strategies** – Teachers will use PLCs to determine the gaps in knowledge for our students in the Sophomore and Junior classes. They will analyze the PSAT scores for those students and develop targeted lessons to address those gaps. Lessons will be presented during the advisory period.

**Our goal will be to improve our SAT Pass rate in Math to 30% and English to 50%.**

**2024-25**

**GOAL I** – Our goal is to improve our school attendance to 93%.

**Intervention** – A vital component of a good education is good attendance. Traditionally the high school attendance rate has been in the 95% range. In the last three years, our school has seen our average attendance rate dip into the lower 90% or upper 80% range.

**Activities/Strategies** – In order to promote better attendance, we will monitor class attendance each week to determine who has the best attendance. Student conferences will be held at 5 and 7 days of absence. Attendance letters will be given to students during our conference (students will initial the letter) and a copy will be sent home requesting a parent conference when needed. Our attendance committee (six staff members) will be involved this year to meet with students that violate our attendance policy (10 days of absence per semester.) The committee will meet with the student and parent to decide the stipulations for the student to have their credits reinstated. The student could be put on attendance probation for the semester. Attendance data will be posted in the hallway. The class with the best attendance and meeting our goal will be allowed to go to lunch 2-3 minutes early for three days. At the end of each month, we will have a sundae bar during lunch for the winning class. Students with perfect attendance will be recognized every nine weeks with a certificate at our awards program.

**Our goal will be to increase our attendance rate to 93%.**

**Goal II** – Our goal is to improve our graduation rate to 90%.

**Intervention** – The most important statistic about each cohort is the rate at which the students in the cohort graduate. Our graduation rate has traditionally been higher than the state average, but over the last two years, we have slipped below the state average. One reason for that change is an increase in students moving away from our district and not enrolling in another school. But the primary reason is that many of our students struggle to complete coursework and then fail a class. Once a class is failed, it is difficult for students to get caught up.

**Activities/Strategies** – Students in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade who are not on track to graduate will be assigned extra time during our advisory time to complete coursework via Edgenuity. We will monitor student progress during that class and have periodic meetings with those students to discuss their progress. We will also keep track of students who appear on our weekly F list. We will assign students who regularly appear on the F list to mandatory after-school homework intervention four days a week for two hours until the students do not appear on the F list.

**Our goal will be to improve our graduation rate to 90%.**

**Goal III** – Our goal is to improve our SAT Pass rate in Math to 33% and English to 55%.

**Intervention** – The state of Indiana recently shifted academic test score monitoring away from the ISTEP test to the SAT test. Our students have passed the benchmark score at a level below the state average for both Math and English Language since every student in the Junior has been required to take the SAT.

**Activities/Strategies** – Teachers will use PLCs to determine the gaps in knowledge for our students in the Sophomore and Junior classes. They will analyze the PSAT scores for those students and develop targeted lessons to address those gaps. Lessons will be presented during the advisory period.

**Our goal will be to improve our SAT Pass rate in Math to 33% and English to 55%.**

**2025-26**

**GOAL I** – Our goal is to improve our school attendance to 94%.

**Intervention** – A vital component of a good education is good attendance. Traditionally the high school attendance rate has been in the 95% range. In the last three years, our school has seen our average attendance rate dip into the lower 90% or upper 80% range.

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reason is that many of our students struggle to complete coursework and then fail a class. Once a class is failed, it is difficult for students to get caught up.

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**Our goal will be to improve our graduation rate to 92%.**

**Goal III** – Our goal is to improve our SAT Pass rate in Math to 36% and English to 58%.

**Intervention** – The state of Indiana recently shifted academic test score monitoring away from the ISTEP test to the SAT test. Our students have passed the benchmark score at a level below the state average for both Math and English Language since every student in the Junior has been required to take the SAT.

**Activities/Strategies** – Teachers will use PLCs to determine the gaps in knowledge for our students in the Sophomore and Junior classes. They will analyze the PSAT scores for those students and develop targeted lessons to address those gaps. Lessons will be presented during the advisory period.

**Our goal will be to improve our SAT Pass rate in Math to 36% and English to 58%.**