

Process**Mission Statement:**

In March, 2007, the faculty met to address the school's mission statement. At that time the mission statement was, "Oak Canyon Junior High is committed to the achievement of excellence in our school community." This mission statement had served Oak Canyon for nine years. As the faculty council convened, it was felt that the philosophy of the mission did not accurately reflect the driving element that was currently found at Oak Canyon. Upon a quick survey of faculty and students, few could state that mission statement. It was felt that a new focus was needed to accurately reflect how Oak Canyon was working toward student learning. In the first faculty council of the year, many options were discussed. At the end of the meeting the statement, "Together We Learn for Life," was unanimously accepted by the faculty council. The philosophy of our new Mission Statement was that in order for a student to be successful, it takes a lot of people. The word "Together" represents the students, parents, faculty, staff, administration, community, and the district. When all work together, students have better opportunities for success. The words Learn for Life represent that none of us ever stops learning and learning is a lifelong process. By working together we can make learning a rigorous, yet fun endeavor, where student achievement is the focal point.

The new Mission Statement, along with the philosophy was shared with the PTA, School Community Council and Student Council. Feedback was requested for additional ideas or strategies. Within the meetings, parents and student council were supportive of the change and chose to adopt "Together We Learn for Life" as Oak Canyon Junior High's new Mission Statement. In April, 2007, faculty council presented our new Mission Statement to the faculty. After some discussion a vote was taken to adopt "Together We Learn for Life".

Soon after the adoption of the new Mission Statement, the former Mission Statement was taken down, and a new sign was put up in prominent places in the foyer and conference room. In the summer mailer of 2007, the philosophy and Mission Statement were sent home for all parents and students to see.

In December, 2008, the faculty council flew to Chicago to visit Adlai Stevenson High School to observe the Professional Learning Communities that they have established to focus on student success. Teachers came back from the trip and realized that Oak Canyon is heading in a positive direction with the PLC process, as well as the determination to assist students. One identified instance is the goal to reduce the percent of students with F's with the in-school intervention program eTime.

In February, 2009, the faculty met to review the school's Mission Statement. A review of the philosophy was presented, and it was decided that "Together We Learn for Life" continues to represent the Mission of Oak Canyon.

In August, 2009, the faculty along with PTA, SCC, and a group of students, met to discuss the Mission, Vision, Values, and Goals of Oak Canyon and how Oak Canyon aligns with the Alpine School District. Before work was begun, Debbie Taylor, the School Board president shared the Alpine School District Mission, Vision, Values, and Goals. The group broke into smaller groups to discuss ideas and current focus, as well as to answer questions relating to Oak Canyon's Mission and Beliefs. After some thorough discussion a vote was taken of all in attendance to determine if "Together We Learn for Life" represents Oak Canyon. Consensus was achieved and it was determined that "Together We Learn for Life" will continue to provide focus for Oak Canyon for the next six years. It was also determined that the brevity actually improves

the mission statement purpose, because it is not cluttered with educational rhetoric and buzz words that muddle the message.

Belief Statements:

In February, 2009, the faculty met to review the then current Belief Statements. No changes were made or suggested in the meeting. Instead, it was an information session to review the beliefs agreed upon in the previous Accreditation process six years ago.

On August 6, 2009, an Accreditation information meeting was held to outline the Accreditation process and timeline for the upcoming year. The SCC, PTA, school leadership team, Student Council, and a group of select students were invited to attend.

On August 17, 2009, Oak Canyon's faculty, SCC, PTA, and group of students including Student Council met to review the school's Belief Statements, written six years prior in the accreditation process. In seven small groups, they analyzed both the meaning and the wording of the seven Belief Statements. Each group had the opportunity to make changes to any of the Belief Statements, define what each means to Oak Canyon, clarify meaning, suggest eliminating any of the Belief Statements, or propose new Belief Statements. An email was sent and follow up phone call was made to all SCC and PTA members of the meeting. If parents could not attend the meeting a list of questions and current Belief Statements were sent to them to fill out to gain their insight.

No group suggested elimination of any of the original seven belief statements. Nevertheless, nearly every one of the seven underwent subtle changes in wording to clarify the meaning and message. The process of analyzing the belief statements helped us concentrate and focus on purpose as public educators.

The desire was to continue to gain insight from stake holders concerning our Mission, Vision, Values, and Goals of OCJH. A school wide email was sent to all current parent emails on file. In total, nearly 900 were contacted of the 1177 students that attend Oak Canyon. The email responses were recorded and used to assist us in the decision making process for our MVVG.

At the first Parent Teacher Conference held on September 24th and 25th, a display board was created so parents and students could read about the Accreditation process and offer suggestions to the Mission, Vision, Values, and Goals (MVVG). Handouts were prepared to take, and paper and pens were provided along with a suggestion box for any suggestions.

On September 28, 2009, the school Leadership team met to discuss the input gained from parents, students, and faculty. From this meeting a first draft document was created to submit to the faculty to gain additional information.

On October 6, a current copy of the MVVG was shared with our SCC and opportunity was given to make changes.

On October 19, 2009, an email was sent to the faculty with the current MVVG with an opportunity to look over the document to add or make any additional suggestions.

On October 22, 2009, the Faculty Council looked over the input gained from the faculty. A discussion ensued concerning the MVVG and another version was created to share with the faculty.

On November 3, 2009, a current copy of the MVVG was shared with the PTA, and opportunity was given to make changes.

On November 20, 2009, our MVVG were sent to the faculty for consensus. No additional suggestions were given. The MVVG were adopted for the next six years.

In January, 2010, the MVVG were sent to all Stakeholders in the annual Stake Holder Report.

Strengths

- All stake holders were represented and given the opportunity to share input in the M, V, V, G for the school. Information was shared in many formats, including meetings, email, back to school night, parent teacher conference, PTA, SCC and stake holder report.
- The Mission Statement is posted in a prominent location in the school and has become part of the culture of Oak Canyon.
- Oak Canyon publishes and sends home an effective stake holder report with MVVG.
- The MVVG are discussed and reviewed during each student individual SEOP with counselors.
- Oak Canyon MVVG aligns with Alpine School District's MVVG.

Areas of Concern

- Informing and reminding all stake holders of the process and message of our MVVG
- Embedding the DRSLs, Mission and Beliefs of Oak Canyon in the classrooms
- Beliefs and Goals need to be posted and reviewed often with stake holders

Steps Forward

- 6th Grade Day
- Back to School Night
- End of school announcements to review mission
- Foyer TV with MVVG and other announcements,
- Magnet from PTA with MVVG
- Poster in each classroom
- Add to disclosure document
- Include in Stake Holder Reports
- Open House information table
- Lab open for new SIS training and quick review of MVVG
- Include discussions in administration visits to the classroom during eTime
- Review in PDD and make part of class discussions.

Oak Canyon Junior High

Mission Statement

Together, We Learn For Life.

Vision

Ensuring student success through:

- Collaboration
- Data Analysis
- Collective Inquiry

Beliefs (Values)

1. Education becomes a lifelong process when students enjoy learning.
2. Students learn responsible behavior when respect for others is encouraged, expected, and modeled.
3. Quality education results when all students' needs are met through the cooperative efforts of diligent students, effective educators, involved and concerned families, and the community.
4. The ethical use of technology combined with effective teaching promotes student learning.
5. Skills, knowledge, and values are best acquired in a safe environment.
6. Students learn to become well-rounded, contributing citizens in a world community.
7. Students learn best when academic learning time is valued, and protected from distractions.

Goals

1. Oak Canyon will work with students with D, F, or I grades during eTime to decrease the overall # of students with failing grades as compared to their class the previous year.
2. Oak Canyon will implement the DRSL Lifelong Learning for all students.
3. Oak Canyon will continue to investigate methods to improve quality and timely communication to parents and students.
4. Oak Canyon will refine and monitor the 4 Essential Questions as defined in our school Action Plan.

Desired Results of Student Learning (DRSL)

Lifelong Learner

- Refines skills and knowledge by acquiring a variety of higher level thinking.
- Sets high standards for self improvement and learning.
- Organizes resources of information technology and time to achieve success.

Effective Communicator

- Effectively and respectfully communicates through verbal and nonverbal forms
- Collaborates respecting individual differences and resolving conflicts as they arise

Responsible Citizen

- Respects differences in culture, beliefs, values and social structures
- Interacts positively with teachers and peers
- Maintains personal accountability for individual decisions and actions