



FALCON FLIER

MARCH/APRIL 2011

Congratulations Allendale High School Senior Adam Finney!

Each year The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers identifies teenagers with exceptional art & writing ability, and acknowledges this ability through The Scholastic Art Awards. The Awards have an impressive legacy with noteworthy past winners, including Andy Warhol, Sylvia Plath, Robert Redford and Joyce Carol Oates.

The Scholastic Art Awards competition is very competitive. This year 532 individual entries and 34 portfolios were submitted for consideration in the regional competition. Not only was Adam's selected for the exhibit, but it was also selected for 2 regional awards in the West Central Michigan region. Adam's pieces, titled "Odonata" and "GP-5," were awarded the Silver Key. The Silver Key is the second highest award given at the regional level.

Adam's work was displayed for the month of January at Kendall College of Art & Design in Grand Rapids. On January 30th, 2011, Kendall College of Art & Design hosted a ceremony to honor Adam and the other regional award winners. Dr. Oliver Evans, President of KCAD, gave the keynote address and presented the awards. "People often think that achieving excellence in art is nothing more than a matter of talent or an inherent gift. But accomplishment requires a discipline and commitment that reflect the value the creative person places on his or her 'gift'" stated Dr. Evans. Good luck to Adam as he continues to pursue this discipline and commitment to his gift, at Kendall College of Art and Design this fall.



Annual School Election - May 3, 2011 Please Mark Your Calendars!

On **Tuesday, May 3, 2011**, a very important school election will be held where the Allendale Board of Education will seek a **renewal** of 18 mills on commercial, business, non-qualified agricultural and second home properties (non-homestead). This levy is not an increase, just a yearly renewal and does not affect homeowners and their primary homes.

According to Scott Powers, Chief Financial Officer, "The millage from this renewal vote is crucial to the operation of the district. Without it, the district would lose over \$2,407,500 in operating funds necessary to help the district purchase books and supplies, meet staff payroll, heat and light school buildings, and service the bus fleet."

In addition to the millage renewal vote, candidates **Jim Crawley** (incumbent), **Jennifer Coffey**, and **Jeff Blum** will be running for two open (4-year term) seats on the Board of Education.

Please Vote
Tuesday, May 3, 2011 • 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Voting location for all precincts: Second Christian Reformed Church, 6950 Lake Michigan Drive
For more information, call the Allendale Township Office at 895-6295



Bryce Brown, Senior Wrestler for AHS, was recently nominated as a 2010/2011 MHSAA Class B Scholar Athlete Award Finalist



Jared Groeneveld Wins State Title Four Falcons Earn All-State Honors

Senior Jared Groeneveld won an individual state title on Saturday at the Division 3 state individual finals at The Palace of Auburn Hills. Groeneveld won the 171-pound weight class and finished his senior season with a perfect 58-0 record.

Earning all-state honors, along with Jared, were sophomore Luke Jensen (3rd, 103 lbs), senior Bryan Reatini (7th, 119 lbs) and senior Cody Bergquist (7th, 285 lbs). Bryce Brown and Isaac Jensen also qualified for state finals. Congratulations to Coach Duane Watson and the entire team and coaching staff for another great season!

Upcoming Events

MARCH

- 15 Oakwood Fine Arts Fair
- 19 Fitness Frenzy
- 24,25,26 High School Musical "Grease"
- 28 Evergreen/Springview Fine Arts Fair
- 28 National Honor Society Induction Ceremony

APRIL

- 1-8 Spring Break
- 23 High School Prom
- 27 Middle School Talent Show
- 28 Evergreen/Springview 1st Grade Music Program

MAY

- 3 Annual School Election
- 5 High School Art Show/Collage Concert
- 6 High School Collage Concert
- 16 Middle School Choir Spring Concert
- 19 Evergreen/Springview 3rd Grade Music Program
- 20 8th Grade Awards Celebration
- 23 Senior Honors Convocation
- 24 Middle School Band Spring Concert
- 26 High School Graduation
- 30 Memorial Day

JUNE

- 1 Retirement Open House
- 2 New Options Graduation
- 7 High School Undergrad Awards
- 10 Last Day of School

Wrestling Team Reaches State Tournament for 4th Consecutive Year

The 2010/11 Allendale Wrestling Team reached the state team tournament for the 4th consecutive year. They finished their season with a loss to the eventual State Champion, Richmond, in the State Semi-Finals. With a 31-2 record, the Allendale Falcon Wrestlers were placed fourth in State Seeding and they defeated Lakewood in the Quarterfinal. This win was also significant as it was Coach Watson's 400th career win.

With a conference record of 5-0, the Falcons finished first in their conference. They were Falcon Invitational Champions, Jenison Invitational Champions, OK Silver Champions, District Champions, and Regional Champions.

The Allendale Falcons are led by Coach Duane Watson and Assistant Coach Ben Burk. Coach Watson has been Head Coach for 23 years and has a current record of 400-217. He was selected as 2010-11 Division Three Regional Coach of the Year. Also, Assistant Coach Burk was selected as 2010-11 Division Three Regional Assistant Coach of the Year.



1st Row: Darius Mockerman, Nathan Borgeld, Justyn Veneklasen, Jason Black-Joseph, Bryan Reatini, Isaac Jensen, Luke Hamlin

2nd Row: Dylan Worthington, Cody Burch, Kyle Bradshaw, Conner Kroll, Jon Longo, Austin Zaldivar, Adam Slagter

3rd Row: Cody Bergquist, Jared Groeneveld, Scott Lyman, Dalton Looper, Glenn Geurink, Luke Jensen, Armando Becerra, Ian TeGrootenhuis

4th Row: Camden Grigsby, Mario Egan, Nick Suits, D'Angelo Owens, Bryce Brown, Tyler Bachelor, Montana Walcott, Colin Beebe, Edgar Lugo

Parenting is for a Lifetime Parent Series

To celebrate the role of families, the Stop Child Abuse and Neglect Council, along with its community partners is presenting the *Parenting is for a Lifetime Parent Series*. These presentations are 'one time' events on various topics parents face with raising children. Parents are encouraged to come to one or to all of the presentations. For more information, call Pathways, MI at 616-396-2301 ext. 145 or email jleeson@pathwaysmi.org.



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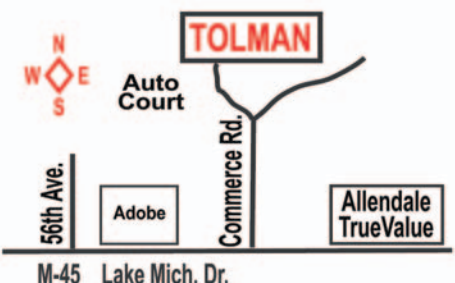
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Allendale School Board Recognized for Professional Learning



Congratulations to our Board of Education which received two awards from the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) at the Ottawa Area School Board Association meeting held at our middle school on March 1. The Board received the Honor Board Award and the Standard of Excellence Award. These awards were achieved through the trustees' tireless efforts to improve their

professional learning. Each of our board members has achieved Level One Certification and the Award of Merit from MASB.

In addition, our Board President, Eric Packer, received the Master Platinum Award and Meegan Zickus, Board Trustee received the Award of Distinction and the Advocacy Skills Specialty Award. We are proud of our board members' commitment to improving their board leadership skills.

New Options Alternative HS: On the Front Lines of Dropout Prevention

As school districts across the United States move to the Response To Intervention (RtI) model for monitoring student achievement; Allendale's own New Options, in its 24th year of operation, has many success stories over the years as being on the front lines of dropout prevention. A New Options Junior's journal entries read in a recent English class:

"I would have to say New Options is basically a second chance, and I say that because if it wasn't for New Options I would probably be dropped out of school by now. Options has a completely different atmosphere than most high schools."

According to an article in Educational Leadership, Oct. 2010, "Response to Intervention is our best hope for giving every student the additional time and support needed to learn at high levels." That support comes in the form of caring teachers and staff members who are ready to get to know the root causes of some of the classroom struggles and issues.

New Options is not like a school I have been to nor have I heard of. It's not just a school; It is more of a family. We all have issues here and we all understand that. And our teachers are not just teachers they are more of our mentors."

New Options' four year cohort graduation rate was 70% last year; its 5 Year cohort graduation rate was at 78%. "Each of these students is an underdog to complete high school, but it reaches further than that," explains Principal Chuck Bailey. If you look at a lifetime average encumbrance on society of a school dropout versus the lifetime assets that a high school graduate brings to a community, that is what I like to call a "Million Dollar Continuum."

So, the next time you drive by that New Options sign on Lake Michigan Drive, be assured that the staff of New Options is on the front lines of dropout prevention.

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Reading Reward Day

On February 21st, 114 eighth graders participated in the Reading Reward Day. Since the beginning of this school year, students have been encouraged to read outside of class. They recorded the amount of pages they read and were rewarded for those pages. To participate for a half a day, students needed to read 1,500 pages. For a full day, students needed 2,500 pages. If students reached 3,000 pages, they received a pizza party along with the full day of activities. In all, the 8th grade read approximately 275,000 pages of recreational reading. The Reward Day included movies, library time, games, arts and crafts, and gym time. It was a fun day for all involved.



Governor's Budget Proposal Includes Major Funding Cuts for Schools

On February 17, Governor Rick Snyder presented his proposed budget to deal with Michigan's deficit situation. The overall budget was business friendly, but suggested deep cuts to government programs and services. The School Aid Fund would be stripped of its surplus through a proposed plan to fund community colleges using \$195.9 million of that fund.

For local school districts, the news was not good. Governor Snyder intends to cut the foundation allowance by \$300 per pupil. This is added to the \$170 per student cut we received last year for a total loss of \$470 per pupil for next year. In addition, the Retirement rate for staff is expected to go up 3.8% next year which equates to another \$239 per pupil expense.

As we all know, the Governor's proposal is not a done deal. The House and Senate of the Michigan legislature will have to craft a final budget which may or may not look much like the Governor's proposed budget. Our Chief Financial Officer is projecting that if the Governor's proposal was accepted by the legislature, we would have an estimated \$1.5 to \$1.75 million shortfall for the next school year. We continuously review our budget to find savings where we can. Our primary goal remains to provide the best educational programming possible for our students with decreasing revenues.

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Video Conference with Author, Sue Stauffacher

In order to celebrate Black History month, the students in Mrs. Luban's and Mrs. Fields/Lema's classes read the books **Nothing But Trouble: The Story of Althea Gibson** and **Bessie Smith** both by Sue Stauffacher. The students learned about the amazing story of Althea Gibson, the first African American tennis star and winner of Wimbledon. Bessie Smith was an African American blues singer who stood up to the Ku Klux Klan. Both were amazing women.

The students then had an incredible opportunity to meet with the author, Sue Stauffacher, in person, along with other classes from around the state via video conference. During this "live" video conference with Sue Stauffacher, the students were able to dig deeper into the stories and find out more about the process she went through to write these powerful books. In addition, throughout the interview, the students gained a better understanding of Althea Gibson and Bessie Smith and the struggles they endured. Students were also able to make connections to their lives and other influential African Americans. Furthermore, they were inspired by Sue Stauffacher's advice to keep reading! "The more you read, the more stories you will be able to create in your head and then put down on paper," she explained. These fifth grade classes did a fantastic job interviewing the author and listening to her responses to our questions and those from the other schools.



Fitnessgram at Allendale Public Schools

Fitnessgram is a fitness assessment and reporting program developed by The Cooper Institute. It is used to assess aerobic capacity, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and flexibility; and body composition. Scores from these assessments are compared to Healthy Fitness Zone standards to determine students' overall physical fitness and suggest areas for improvement when appropriate. Allendale students will be participating in Fitnessgram at different times throughout the year.

Check out the Fitnessgram website at
www.fitnessgram.net/programoverview/



Literacy Night

Over 300 Allendale students and adults attended Literacy Night on February 24 at the CFAC. Students received bookmarks, pencils, and the opportunity to choose from free books. Three authors, Amy Young, Laurie Keller, and Mark Newman, joined in the celebration of reading with presentations in the auditorium and also autographed their books which were sold at a discounted rate. The Allendale Public Library was there to share information and there was a special appearance by Mother Goose for the younger set. This event was underwritten by the Allendale Elementary PTO and is held bi-annually.

*Ryan Blackburn with his newly autographed copy of **Do Unto Otters**, by Laurie Keller*



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Sheds by Students Project!

Allendale True Value and the Allendale High School Shop Class lead by Mr. Mark Vizithum have again partnered for our 2nd consecutive year. The AHS Shop Class will be constructing two (2) 10'x10' Sheds with materials provided by Allendale True Value. This partnership was a huge success in 2010, offering a great learning opportunity for students.

Changes for 2011!

This year we are allowing a short promotional order window for you to be able to pre-order and have the choice of siding and roofing colors. Pre-Order by March 31st and receive the promotional rate of \$2299.00 which includes choice of colors and *FREE delivery, *within 5 mile radius of Allendale. Typical Retail Value on Kits of this Nature range from \$1800-\$2599 before labor and delivery.

Interested in Ordering?

Please contact Chad Ayers at Allendale True Value for more details. Due to scheduling we have limited quantities available. Please call 616.892.4261 or e-mail info@allendaletruevalue.com

Grand Rapids Children's Museum

"Springview kindergarten students Alana DeWeerd, Emily Renshaw, and Cadence Richards are behind the wheel at the Grand Rapids Children's Museum."



Elementary Game Club

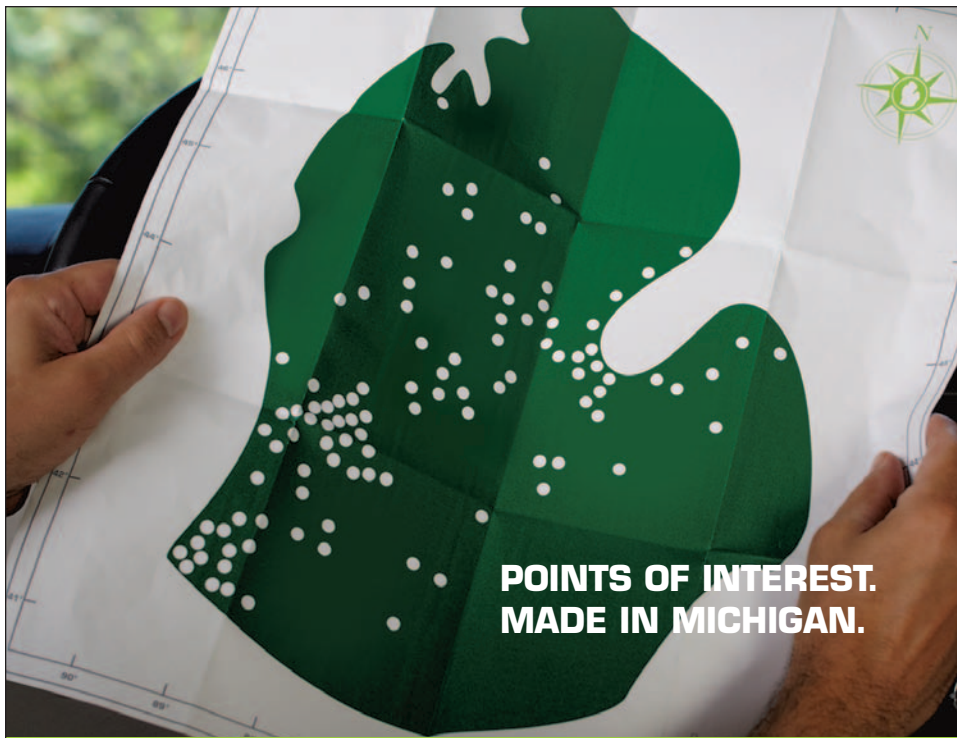
Evergreen & Springview 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade students participate in "Game Club," an after-school activity promoting strategic, higher level thinking skills. This group is led by Mrs. Beck (Gifted & Talented Director), Mrs. Filcik (classroom teacher) and Mrs. Rotman (parent volunteer), with additional support provided by the Allendale Middle School Leadership Team.



Musical Informance



During the month of February, each kindergarten class participated in their very own "Musical Informance" (informational, informal performance) in front of family and friends! During the 'informance,' kindergarteners sang a story book while playing imaginary instruments, performed a circle dance, and sang "Skid-a-ma-rink" for their audience. Way to go, Kindergarteners!



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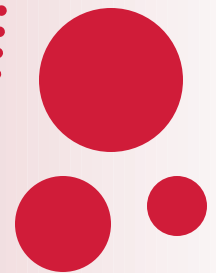
Hand-made from the bleacher seating in the old Middle School gym.



Contact Greg Zost at 616-204-1789 or Char Dubois at 616-634-6899 to arrange for purchase and pickup.

Amazing Reading Bus Fundraiser Achieves Goal

On February 24, the Rotary Club of Allendale held its 2nd Annual Amazing Reading Bus Spaghetti Dinner to raise funds for that program. Over 250 meals were served as families enjoyed the spaghetti donated by Peppino's Restaurant. In addition, a variety of prizes were raffled off from local businesses. A big thank you goes to Allendale True Value Hardware, Chemical Bank, and Tamminga & Levering for their sponsorship of the event. The Rotary Club of Allendale raises funds to promote literacy in the community and supports the Allendale High School Benevolent Fund.



Help Us Create an Alma Mater Song for APS!



Allendale Public Schools has a sports "fight song," but we don't have an Alma Mater song that encompasses all that makes Allendale great. We would like to create an anthem that captures the spirit of our loyalty and pride in the same way our fight song instills excitement and passion.

If you have ideas about lyrics that could be included in this song, please send your ideas by March 31 via email to our middle school music teachers: Mr. Adam Wurst at WurstAda@APSFalcons.net, or Mr. Kevin Langejans at LangejansKev@APSFalcons.net. **You may also attend a meet-and-greet with Composer Brian Siewert on March 17 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm in the Middle School Media Center.**

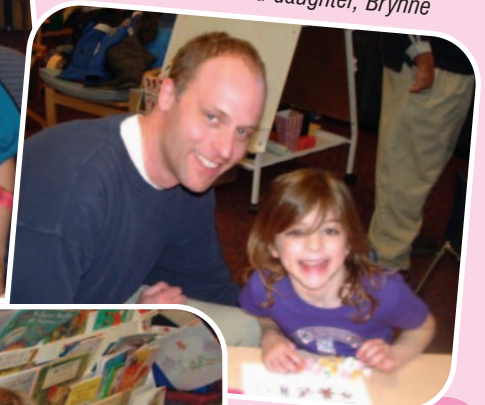
If you would like to contribute to the cost of this project, please send a tax-deductible donation to Allendale Public Schools, Attn. Alma Mater Project, 10505 Learning Lane, Allendale, MI 49401. Thank you for your support of Allendale Public Schools and your continued support of the arts in the Allendale Community. We plan to premier our new Alma Mater song at the High School Collage Concert on May 5 and 6.

Valentine Party in Mrs. VanderPloeg's Class

Davina Mancilla with mom, Cristina Briseno



Steve LaPlante and daughter, Brynne



Amanda Anderson with daughter, Ainsely

APS Now on Facebook

Allendale Public Schools now has a Facebook page. This is another piece of our communications strategy to connect with our parents and community.



Leisure Classes
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Youth:

- Hunters Safety – Feb & Sept.
- ORV
- Boaters Safety
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Kids Hope Mentors

Springview Elementary is so thankful for 10 years of Kid's Hope mentoring. Our mentees made a banner for 2nd Christian Reformed Church in appreciation.



APS Foundation Sponsors Falcon Open June 3, 2011

The APS Foundation's Fund Advisory Committee is sponsoring its inaugural Falcon Open at the Meadow's course on the campus of Grand Valley State University on June 3 to raise funds for the Allendale Public School Foundation.

If you or someone you know loves golf and would want to support a worthy cause—our students and our educational programming, please get a foursome together and sign up. There are also multiple ways in which you can support this event through sponsorships. Please go to www.allendale.k12.mi.us to find out more information about how to sign up or how to become a sponsor.



Battle of the Bands



Saturday, April 30, 2011 @ 6:00pm
Ceglarek Fine Arts Center
Allendale High School
10760 68th Avenue; Allendale, MI 49401

GRAND PRIZE!!!!
\$250 and bragging rights!!!!

\$25 entry fee
All bands welcome!!

Call 616-892-3482 or e-mail theater@allendale.k12.mi.us

All Ticket are \$5

Judging will be done by a panel of 3 judges and by crowd response
Proceeds to benefit the class of 2011 Senior All-Nighter

Sexting and the Law

On February 23 and 24, grouped separately with boys only, then girls only, our 8th grade class met with Officer Dewitt and Middle School Counselor Rhonda Wilson. During the meeting, obscenity laws and “sexting” (as coined by the media) were discussed. “Students are overwhelmed with an enormous amount of technology they are responsible for. Between cell phones, email, and facebook, it is imperative they know the consequences of making bad choices. Our students need to learn to protect themselves to avoid lifelong issues,” said Mrs. Wilson.

Some of the information covered:

- Keeping yourself safe...using all privacy settings and reporting unwanted or illegal pictures or text
- Voluntary vs Involuntary messages and pictures, and what to do with them
- Manufacturing, possession, and distribution laws
- What is the sex offender registry?
- Respecting yourself

Along with sexting, the following was also discussed: cyberbullying, bullying, and our school dress code.

If you would like to view the powerpoint presentation that was shown, please feel free to email Mrs. Wilson at wilsonrho@allendale.k12.mi.us or stop in the Middle School Office and ask to review it.



Officer Dewitt explaining the “sexting” law

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- ◆ Personalized Graduation Open House Invites

Improved Parent Portal!

The Parent Portal sports a new look thanks to an update from Infinite Campus, our student information system provider. Parents should expect an improved user interface and additional features when they access the parent portal. Parents not signed up and wishing to use this communication tool can access the needed sign up form from the Parents link on the district home page at www.allendale.k12.mi.us.

WE APPRECIATE YOU!

Allendale Public Schools would like to **thank** the following local businesses and organizations for **supporting** our schools through monetary and in-kind contributions throughout the school year.

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If you would like to place an ad in the **June 21, 2011** issue of the Allendale Public Schools' **Falcon Flier Newsletter**, please email your ad and this completed form to Mary Edwards at edwardsmar@allendale.k12.mi.us.

Deadline to Submit Ad: June 3, 2011 at Noon

	Non-AACC* Member	AACC* Member	
Full Page	\$225 _____	\$205 _____	
1/2 Page	\$125 _____	\$110 _____	
1/4 Page	\$70 _____	\$60 _____	
1/8 Page	\$45 _____	\$40 _____	Total \$ _____

Contact Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

District Strategic Planning Committee Develops Vision and Goals

After two days of meetings on February 7 and 11, the District Strategic Planning Committee has developed its vision and goals for the district for the next 3-5 years.

What do they want APS to be in 10-15 years?

Allendale Public Schools - West Michigan's premier center of educational innovation for students, staff, and community

What is the purpose statement they endorsed?

Explore your passions, seize your opportunities

The committee reaffirmed our current tagline:

"Powered by possibilities"

Three goals were established in the areas of Rigor/Relevance, Relationships, and Results.

- 1. Rigor/Relevance:** "Create cohesive, vertically aligned educational programming that will equip all graduates with college or vocational credit, professional certification, or formalized job training."
- 2. Relationships:** "Create an Allendale Public Schools' Family Outreach Program that emphasizes the parents' involvement in their child's educational success."
- 3. Results:** "Improve proficiency, efficiency, and performance in each building and department by 25 percent annually."

Each goal had key thrusts and capabilities added to support achievement of the goal. The next step in the process is a meeting on March 28 between the full Board of Education, the District Strategic Planning Committee, and the Administrative team to review the plan and develop yearly measurable targets.

Once that is done, administrators will be working with their building or department staffs in the Spring to determine what they can do to support these goals in their work.