

Entry and Communication Plan for Austin Elementary

Principal Avis Mooneyham

December 2020



Introduction:

Dear Austin Family:

My name is Avis Mooneyham, and I am honored to be able to introduce myself as your new principal. With your partnership, we will push Austin's mission to *"provide a safe, nurturing environment where challenging and creative teaching occurs utilizing state of the art resources. Individual learning needs will be met and students will develop into confident, productive members of society"*.

Austin has seen a lot of transition this year: a move to a new building, historic virtual learning during the 2020-2021 school year, and now new leadership.

I will be asking for your input throughout this journey. I want to know what you think makes Austin SOAR.

S: Strengths of Austin

O: Opportunities you see

A: Areas of focus

R: Reasons to react

Together we will empower our students.

As for my background, I have been honored to be a classroom teacher, a mathematics coach, a Coordinator II in the Assessment Department within the district office, and an Assistant Principal. All but one of my years has been here in DeKalb County, most of which were right here in Dunwoody. My last 4.5 years, I served as an Assistant Principal at Dunwoody Elementary where I was able to help lead 1,200 students and assist in the movement of the 4th and 5th grade students and staff to the Dunwoody Elementary Upper Campus.

In the below entry plan, you will find my priorities all lead back to communication and building on to the strategic plan already in place. It is important to maintain the effective programs such as Balanced Literacy and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). I will continue the success of Austin Elementary by empowering all school partners: students, staff, and community.

Whether we are virtual learning or back in person, we will be excellent. Together we will make sure Austin grows strong, engaged individuals with a drive for learning.

I will close by thanking you for putting your trust in me. Thank you for supporting your school and being an active member of our school family.

Humbly yours,

Avis Mooneyham

Stakeholders Input and Ongoing Communication Plan:

1. Understand and build positive relationships with all stakeholders.
2. Build a climate of collaboration, innovation, and open communication.

My entry plan is intended to share with all stakeholders a commitment of open communication and a road map with the end result of student success regardless of serving through the preferred in-person or in the virtual environment. The plan is designed with stops for input, reflection, and refinement based on current needs and circumstances.

Top Stakeholders:

1. Students
2. Staff
3. Parents
4. Community
5. STEM Partners

Meeting and hearing from my top stakeholders is of the upmost importance. While the virtual environment makes this different, it will not stop this needed piece. The first step will be to hold three introduction meetings: staff, parents, and students. The focus of these will be to find what makes Austin SOAR. We will gather information about Austin strengths, opportunities available, areas of focus, and needed reactions (safety concerns).



Communication will continue through Principal hosted coffees twice a semester and weekly emails. For now, meetings will be held through a virtual platform. Other modes of communication: Website, Social Media Outlets, and School Messenger.

Strategic Plan:

1. Develop and implement a content planning model to support instructional goals.
2. Create a Student Growth Cadre with a focus on individual students and their areas of need.
3. Enhance STEM program with a focus of recertification.

All things must lead back to the Austin's Strategic Plan. Balanced Literacy will continue to be a focus and main strategy for our students in the area of reading and language arts. Cognitive Guided Instruction will balance the focus in the area of mathematics through the use of Number Talks and critical thinking. We will push the 5 E's from STEM: Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, and Evaluate throughout our subjects.

Phases of the Strategic Plan

Identify and Learn:

- Understand the structure, role, and responsibilities of building leadership groups
- Identify set goals and learn current processes
- Understand the existing plan around STEM Recertification

Analyze and Plan:

- Establish Student Growth Cadre and content planning norms and expectations.
- Analyze the current School Wide Strategic Plan, CSIP, with needed teams and stakeholder groups.
- Prioritizing key outputs and programs outcomes- looking at short term and long term goals with leadership team.
- Connect with current STEM partners and plan next steps in recertification.

Sustain and Improve:

- Track student growth through Student Growth Cadre and make needed adjustments to individual learning plans.
- Continue and refine the monitoring cycle: data analyze, data talks, PL support, walkthrough monitoring.
- Engage teachers in professional learning focused on effective content planning and critical questioning.
- Reflect and refine School Wide Strategic Plan for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Expand new channels to increase strategic partnerships. Networking with Local DeKalb and Dunwoody businesses and other STEM professionals.