

OPEN WINDOW SCHOOL / VISTA ACADEMY

STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2012

Dear Parents, Alumni, Faculty, Staff and Friends,

It is with great pride and excitement that we present the Open Window School Strategic Plan for 2008-2012.

As stewards of the school's mission, the Board of Trustees is responsible for identifying the strategic direction the school must take in order to thrive. Our new Strategic Plan represents hundreds of hours of work; we began in September 2007 and involved our entire community. A survey was compiled and completed by parents, faculty and staff and the Board of Trustees. We also conducted parent interviews and held separate faculty and Board retreats. It is therefore with great confidence that we introduce this plan. It reflects a bold, exciting and achievable direction that supports the school's mission and benefits every student, Kindergarten through 8th Grade at Open Window School.

Over the years, we have established a clear set of priorities, values that are ongoing and of great importance to the school. These will continue to be the basis for future planning and include: attracting the best possible faculty and staff by offering very competitive compensation and benefits; professional development for our teachers and staff; ongoing financial planning and modeling to insure institutional health now and in the future; affordability and value; increased financial aid. We continuously reflect on our educational program and support improvements that meet the changing needs of our students.

We have much to be proud of already. Feedback gained from our school community during the entire planning process was positive and affirming. Open Window School is seen as a healthy place where the educational program is strong and the school leadership is forward thinking and tireless. As Board President, I am honored to work with an extremely talented and committed group of individuals. We value and respect the trust that is placed on our leadership and will use this Strategic Plan to guide us in a direction that promises to move our school to a new level of excellence.

With sincere thanks,

Yvonne Clark

Board President

Open Window School

**Open Window School
Vista Academy at Open Window School
Strategic Plan 2008 - 2012**

Mission

Open Window School nurtures and challenges students of high intellectual ability and inspires them to new levels of academic excellence, creativity, and personal accomplishment for participation in a diverse and changing world.

Strategic Objective

Be the recognized leader for Kindergarten through 8th grade gifted education in the Pacific Northwest.

Strategic Initiative

- 1. Establish the Gifted Education Center to support Open Window School's mission to meet the unique talents and needs of gifted learners through research, professional development and community awareness.**
 - 1.1. Develop and implement the following programs:
 - 1.1.1. A professional development program using research-based strategies to train Open Window School and Vista Academy faculty and staff in best practices for gifted education
 - 1.1.2. A speakers' series for professional development and the education of parents and educators in the region, on topics related to the education of gifted students
 - 1.1.3. A summer session for educators addressing the needs of gifted students
 - 1.1.4. A professional advancement program to enable Instructional Assistants to pursue formal internships and permanent, full time employment as teachers of gifted learners
 - 1.1.5. Educational programs for teachers and the community encompassing the needs of gifted adolescents
 - 1.2. Establish funding strategies to support the Gifted Education Center.

Strategic Initiative

- 2. Prepare students for success in a changing world by creating a coherent, dynamic curriculum that promotes a diverse and global perspective.**

- 2.1. Establish a Global Studies task force to:
 - 2.1.1. Articulate a global studies framework, Kindergarten through 8th grade, to raise student awareness of the global community, environment and culture.
 - 2.1.2. Identify, expand and revise curriculum strands already in place and develop additional strands with key experiences at grade levels.
 - 2.1.3. Investigate partnerships with schools in other countries.
 - 2.1.4. Develop a culminating, global field study experience where 8th graders travel to and immerse themselves in the culture of another country.
 - 2.1.5. Fund and implement the recommendations.
- 2.2. Develop a comprehensive foreign language program, Kindergarten through 8th grade, which includes education about world cultures and offers specific instruction that prepares the Vista graduate to enter Level 2 by 9th grade.
- 2.3. Establish a Technology task force to develop a technology roadmap and implementation plan.
 - 2.3.1. Investigate and make recommendations that will enable faculty and students to take advantage of information technology innovations and best practices in delivering the curriculum.
 - 2.3.2. Fund and implement the recommendations.

Strategic Initiative

3. Complete the campus.

- 3.1. Develop existing field to support multiple uses to benefit all Open Window School and Vista Academy students for play, discovery, instruction, and athletics.
- 3.2. Expand the middle school facility to fully support the needs of Vista Academy.
- 3.3. Fully define budgetary scope and develop strategies to fund campus completion initiatives.

Strategic Initiative

4. Articulate the benefits to gifted children of a Kindergarten through 8th grade Open Window School and Vista Academy education.

- 4.1. Communicate, thoughtfully and deliberately, the components of an Open Window School education to prospective and current students and families, educators and the broader community.
- 4.2. Develop and implement a communications plan to increase the awareness of Open Window School as the leader in Kindergarten through 8th grade gifted education in the Pacific Northwest.
- 4.3. Promote the Gifted Education Center as an asset for the Open Window School community and as a resource for gifted education in the Pacific Northwest.