

Sheboygan South High School

www.sheboygan.k12.wi.us/south

Patrick Flaherty, Principal
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(920) 459-3637



Grades 9-12

Comprehensive

Enrollment: 1335

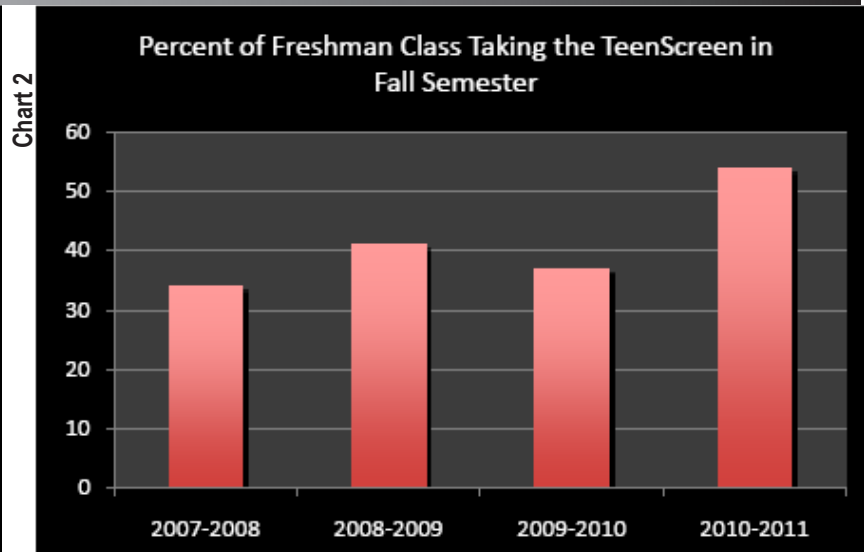
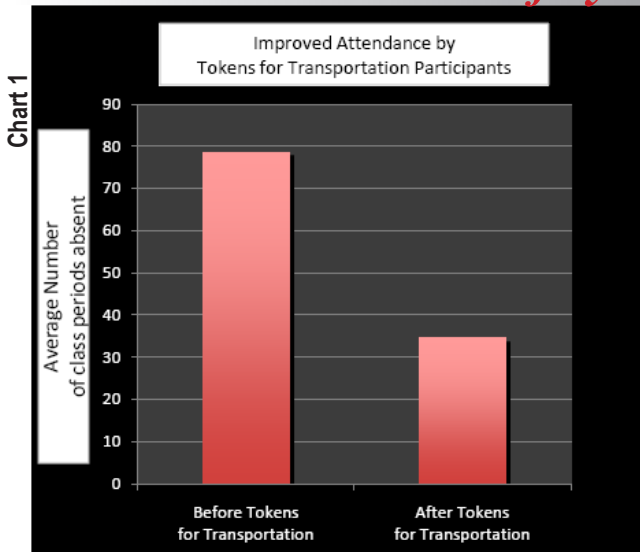
Principal's Comments

I have had the privilege of working with the Sheboygan South HS pupil service professionals for the past four years. It is very clear that the South High School Student Support team plays an integral and vital role in the academic success and safety of all South High students.

One example of the impact our SSPT has on student achievement is the success they had with one of their Focus for Improvement goals from last year. The SSPT reviewed the student achievement data for freshman and determined that there was a need to reduce the number of freshman failing two or more core academic courses at the end of each semester. To address this goal, the school counselors developed an academic intervention, which was administered throughout the school year. After identifying the students at risk and administering the intervention developed by the team, the positive result was a reduction in the number of freshman failing two or more core classes. That's the kind of impact a dedicated SSPT can have on our students.

Our team of school counselors is committed to practicing their profession at the highest level, and I absolutely support the counselors' focus in implementing the national standards from the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) and the state standards in the Wisconsin Comprehensive School Counseling Model. All of our Pupil Service Personnel at Sheboygan South HS play an indispensable role in assisting our students in meeting their personal and academic potential.

School Climate and Safety



The Student Support Personnel Team (SSPT) recognizes that it plays a vital role in helping establish and maintain a safe and positive school climate. The SSPT communicates regularly with the building administrators about issues that could impact the school climate. In reviewing the reasons for habitual truancies, it became evident that some families cannot afford the cost of transportation to school. The SSPT coordinated community donations to pay for bus tokens for needy students. The result has been a 56% reduction in missed class periods by the eight students involved in the program (Chart 1). In order to reduce the stigma related to mental health issues, the school counselors provided a classroom lesson in freshman Health classes, leading classroom discussions about suicide prevention and intervention. The counselors also introduced the TeenScreen mental health screen, and encouraged students to go through the screening process. The result was a 46% increase in the number of students agreeing to take the TeenScreen this year over the last three years (Chart 2).

Student Results



Sheboygan South's Student Support Personnel Team considers student achievement as its primary focus. Addressing specific standards for student achievement that are taken from the American School Counselor Association National Model for School Counseling Programs, and from the Wisconsin Comprehensive School Counseling Model, the SSPT ensures that students show improvement in academics, career development/post-secondary planning, and personal/social growth.

Academic

- **ASCA Standard: A:B2.6** Understand the relationship between classroom performance and success in school
- **Wisconsin Standard: B.12.2.2** Apply problem-solving and decision-making skills to assess progress toward educational goals

The SST understands that they play a critical role in the academic development and success of the students at Sheboygan South HS. After reviewing the data regarding freshman course failures, a Closing the Achievement Gap plan was created to identify freshman failing two or more core classes in order to provide an intervention measure. The first tier intervention was for a school counselor to meet with the student to discuss the concern, identify strengths & weaknesses with strategies for improving and overcoming barriers to academic success. These meetings would take place between grading periods. When the data was collected at the next grading period, 50% of the freshman involved with the intervention were no longer failing two or more core curricular classes. (Chart 1)

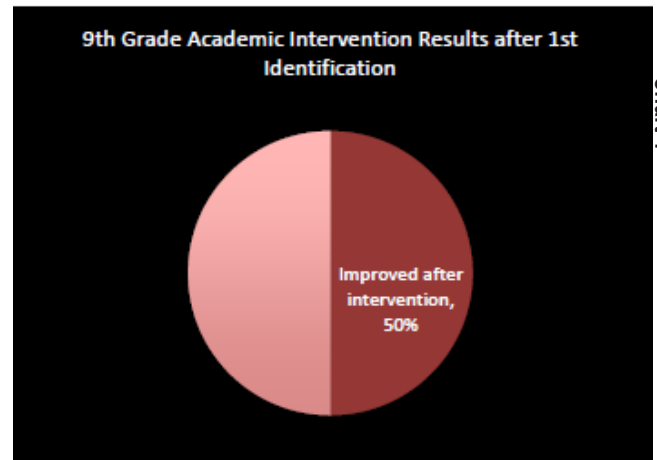


Chart 1

Career Development

- **ASCA Standard: C:B2.5** Maintain a career-planning portfolio
- **Wisconsin Standard: I.8.1.1** Use career planning strategies and tools to develop career awareness and a career plan

The SST at Sheboygan South HS is committed to ensuring that all students are engaged in developing an educational plan that is strongly connected with their career goals. This year, the school counselors added two-day career and educational pathway lessons to the sophomore and junior years. Part of the lesson focused on helping students understand how to utilize our internet based career research tool, Career Cruising, which also has an electronic portfolio. The addition of the career lessons resulted in a significant increase in the number of students accessing their electronic portfolios for planning purposes. (Chart 2)

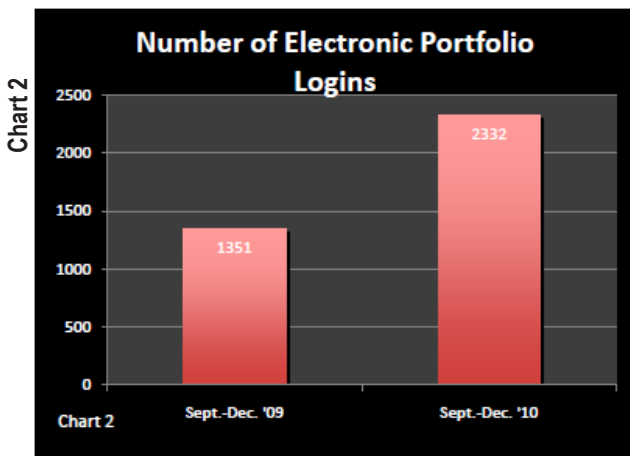


Chart 2

Personal/Social Growth

- **ASCA Standard: PS:C1.11** Learn coping skills for managing life events
- **Wisconsin Standard: F.12.1.2** Develop and use positive coping skills to manage significant life events

It is well documented that students who are struggling with a mental health issue have difficulty performing well in school. It is also well documented that many mental illnesses go undetected or untreated. At Sheboygan South H.S., all 9th grade students are provided the opportunity for a mental health screening. As a result of the screening, then families of some students are encouraged to seek treatment with a community mental health professional. After measuring the academic success of the two semesters after students were identified with a positive screen, the positive result is that their GPA went up. (Chart 3).

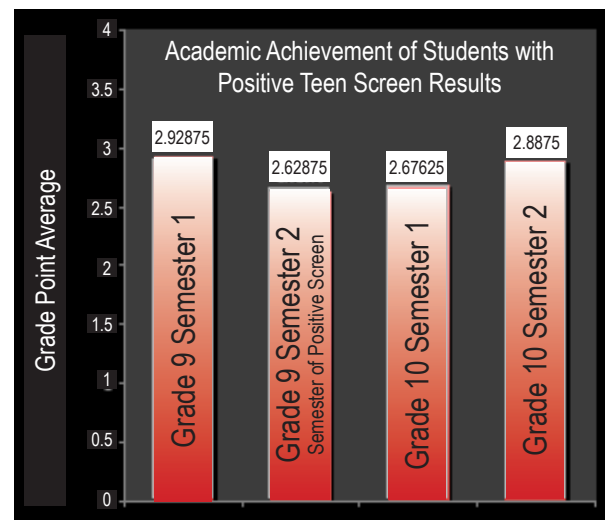


Chart 3

Focus for Improvement



The Sheboygan South SSPT is committed to providing the highest quality service to our students and their families. Regularly assessing the impact of our services provides us with feedback on where to make improvements. The SSPT is also very aware that we can make a significant contribution toward the attainment of the goals of our building, and therefore make a concerted effort to address the building goals.

This year, we looked at the data regarding the student completion rate of our identified benchmarks in their career e-portfolios was below 25% for the entire student body. One of our goals for the year is to increase that percentage to at least 50% completion rate. This goal has driven us to create some new career lessons, which utilize the e-portfolios in a more directed way.