

Raising the Titanic:



**TURNING AROUND THE WORST
PERFORMING MIDDLE SCHOOL IN THE
STATE OF KANSAS**



Why the Titanic?



A compelling story of a very public disaster

Problems have plagued Truesdell

- Riots*
- Truancy*
- Failing Scores*
- Discipline*
- Bullying*
- Restructuring*
- School Choice*

Jacob Astor was among the passengers who went down with the ship, according to a wireless dispa

Why the Titanic?



Our Story



Raise the Ship
Float the Ship
Sail the Ship

The Titanic: Truesdell Middle School



	2011-2012	2012-2013
Enrollment:	878	947
English Language Learners:	16%	15%
Special Education:	21%	21%
Free/Reduced Lunch	88%	88%
Af/Am	16%	16%
Hispanic	29%	29%



In the News....



Wichita girl accused of bullying gets a unique punishment

August 28, 2012 | By Pilar Pedraza | KWCH 12 Eyewitness News

(WICHITA, Kan.) — A Wichita father is taking unusual steps to teach his daughter that bullying is not to be tolerated after finding out she was involved in an incident near Truesdell Middle School last week. And at least one victim's family supports the disciplinary action.

"All my friends was going to see me and, oh my gosh! This is just so embarrassing," said Deonna Anthony Tuesday afternoon.

"It's just something that I had to take a stand on with her," said her father, Deondre Anthony.

Deondre Anthony and his daughter Deonna stood just down the street from Truesdell Middle School Tuesday holding handmade signs calling for everyone to step up and help end bullying.

In the News....



Truesdell custodian injured during attack by brothers

By Stan Finger and Suzanne Perez Tobias
The Wichita Eagle

Published Wednesday, March 13, 2013, at 2:42 p.m.
Updated Wednesday, March 13, 2013, at 5:16 p.m.

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A Truesdell Middle School staff member was taken to Wesley Medical Center for treatment after being injured in a fight at the school Wednesday afternoon, authorities said.

The assault was reported at 1:30 p.m. at Truesdell, 2464 S. Glenn, a Sedgwick County dispatch supervisor said.

Two brothers were "horsing around" in a hallway when one of them bumped into a female student, Capt. Max Tenbrook said.

A teacher saw the collision and stepped in to tell them to settle down, Tenbrook said, and one of the brothers threw up his hand and knocked the teacher's glasses off. It's not clear whether that action was intentional, he said.

But a custodian saw the teacher get hit and stepped in to protect her, Tenbrook said. At that point, the brothers began to beat the custodian.

Both students were arrested and the custodian taken to the hospital for treatment of minor injuries, Tenbrook said.

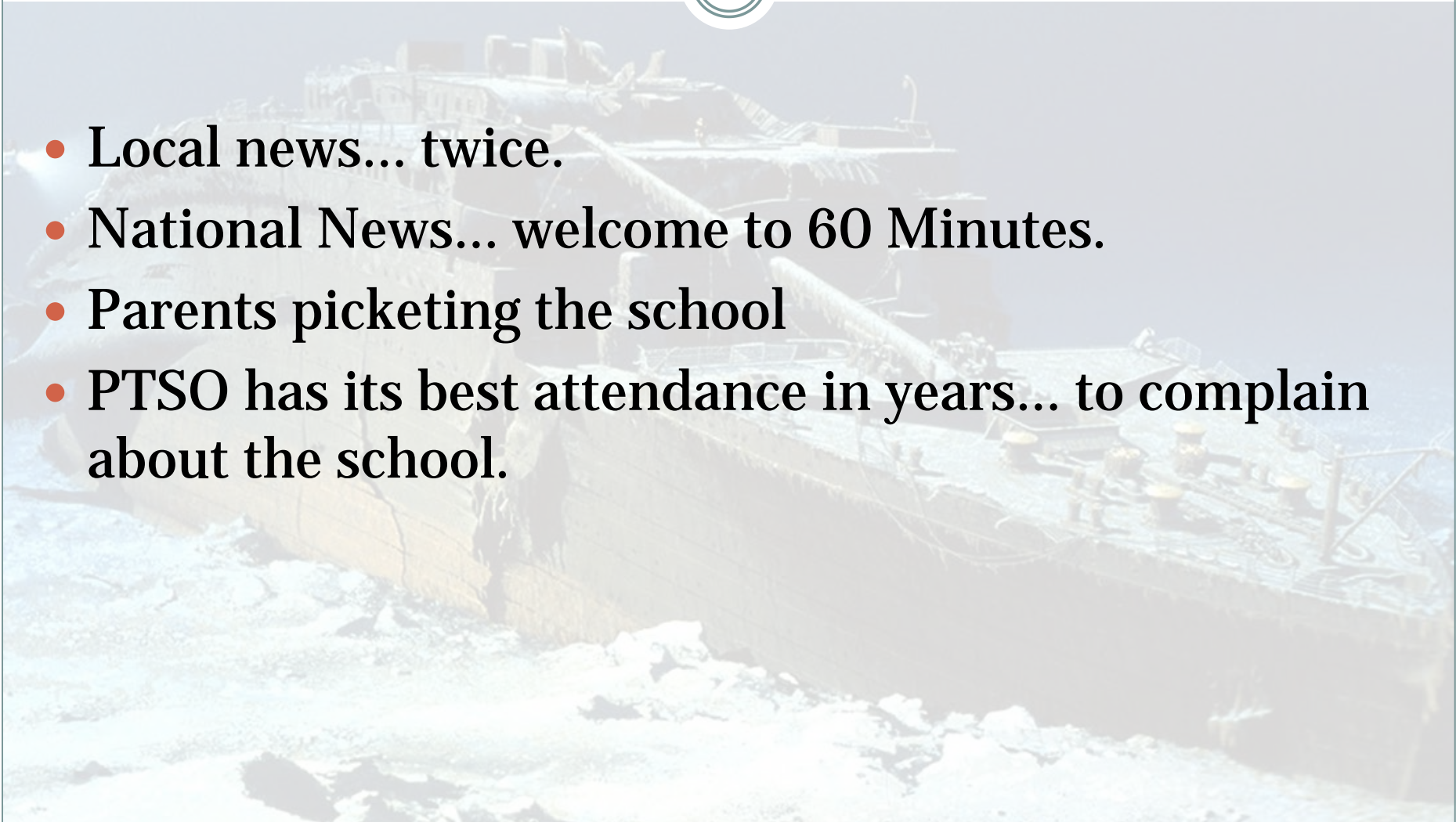
"It was one of those situations where one thing led to another," he said.

Both boys are in the eighth grade, USD 259 spokeswoman Susan Arensman said.

On the Bottom



- Local news... twice.
- National News... welcome to 60 Minutes.
- Parents picketing the school
- PTSO has its best attendance in years... to complain about the school.



On the Bottom



- **Priority School Status:** lowest 5% of Title I schools are Priority Schools. In 2012, we are the lowest of those 5%.
- **53.9% Proficient in Reading**
- **46.3% Proficient in Mathematics.**
- **4,555 behavior referrals:** 5 incidents for every student. (*This includes the wheelchair-bound student with cerebral palsy*)
- **10% of students with 20+ days of absence.**

Raise the Ship



GET THIS SHIP UP!

Raise the Ship



Instilling the Vision begins with implementing evidence-based school reform efforts.

–Chart Credited to Best Practices in School Psychology, 5th Edition NASP 2008

Identifying Valued Academic and Social Outcomes

Student

Family

Community

School

Achieving Valued Outcomes

Competent Local
Implementers

Evidence-Based
Practices and
Interventions

Appropriate and
Adequate Resources

Supporting Fidelity and Efficiency

Local Capacity for
Coordination, Training,
Coaching, and Evaluation

Continuous
Regeneration for
Sustainability and
Expansion

Sound Theoretical and
Conceptual Foundations

Raise the Ship



The Vision

**Building a Utopia of Achievement, by Excelling in
Academics, Behavior, and Effort.**



Raise the Ship



Academic	Behavior
“The Firm 4”	“The Fab 5”

District Wide Partnerships with Safe and Civil Schools

Raise the Ship



Academic

“The Firm 4”

- Cornell Notes
- Highlighting Strategy
- LINC's for 6th and 7th grade which will move to ALIKE/DIFFERENT for 8th grade
- KTWL

Raise the Ship



Behavior

“The Fab 5”

- Acknowledge Adults
- Rule of Nike- “Just Do It”
- Choose Another Word
- Walk Away to Cool Off
- Live Up to the Vision

Raise the Ship



Other Highlights

- Language Arts and Mathematics Grade Level Classes capped at 15 students
- “The Power of 2” - One teacher and one paraeducator in the classroom
- Targeted Intervention Classes
- Implementation of Behavioral and Academic MTSS Practices
- Extended School Day
- Extended School Year
- Community Partnerships
- PTO Revival

Raise the Ship



Breaking the Surface

- Behavior Referrals

2011-2012	2012-2013
4, 555 incidents	3,127 incidents

- State Assessment Proficiency Scores

	2011-2012	2012-2013
Reading	54%	64%
Mathematics	46%	48%

Float the Ship



STAY BUOYED UP!

Float the Ship



The New 'Dell

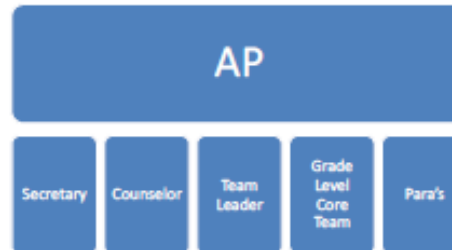
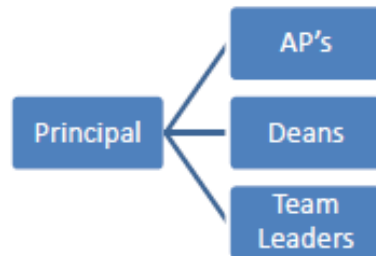
	2013-2014
Enrollment:	980
English Language Learners:	18%
Special Education:	21%
Free/Reduced Lunch	88%
Af/Am	17%
Hispanic	27%

Float the Ship



- 25% staff turnover
- Increased staff from 72 to 81 through additional Science and Social Studies teachers
- Changed school leadership structure

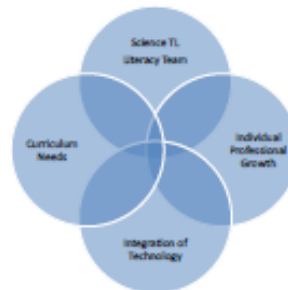
Float the Ship: A New Leadership Structure



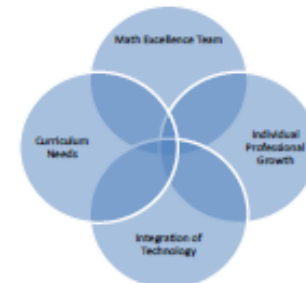
Dean of Staff Development



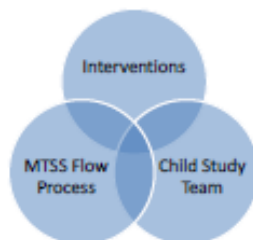
Dean of Curriculum and Instruction Science/LA



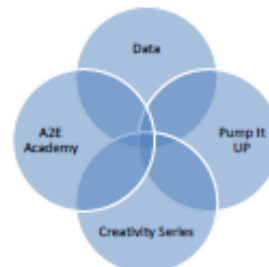
Dean of Curriculum and Instruction Math/SS



Dean of MTSS



Dean of Data and Innovation



Dean of Truancy and Community Engagement



Float the Ship



Data Driven

- Student Class Placement
- Intervention classes become fluid through monitoring student performance in Lexia and Reading Plus
- Mathematics Common Assessments: Mastery Learning Model
- Improved Behavioral Data Monitoring
- School-wide Progress Monitoring

Float the Ship



A Connection to School

- Expanded Extended School Day Options
- STEM Summer School
- Southwestern College Summer Camp
- Drama and Music Theater
- Band, Orchestra, and Choir
- Athletics
- Team America Rocketry Challenge
- Track, Boys' and Girls' Basketball, Girls Volleyball
- Intramural Soccer
- Saturday Creativity Sessions

Float the Ship



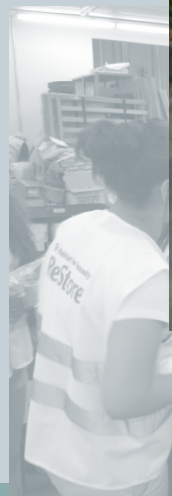
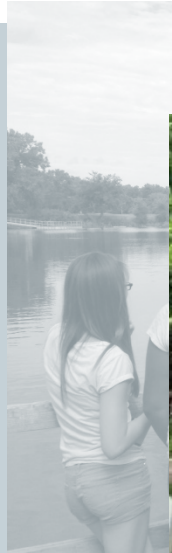
Mean Girls Summer Program

- Students identified through disciplinary data
- 6 Field Trips
- Experience-based Learning
- Focus on:
 - Positive Social Skills
 - Leadership Qualities
 - Goal Directed Behavior

Float the Ship



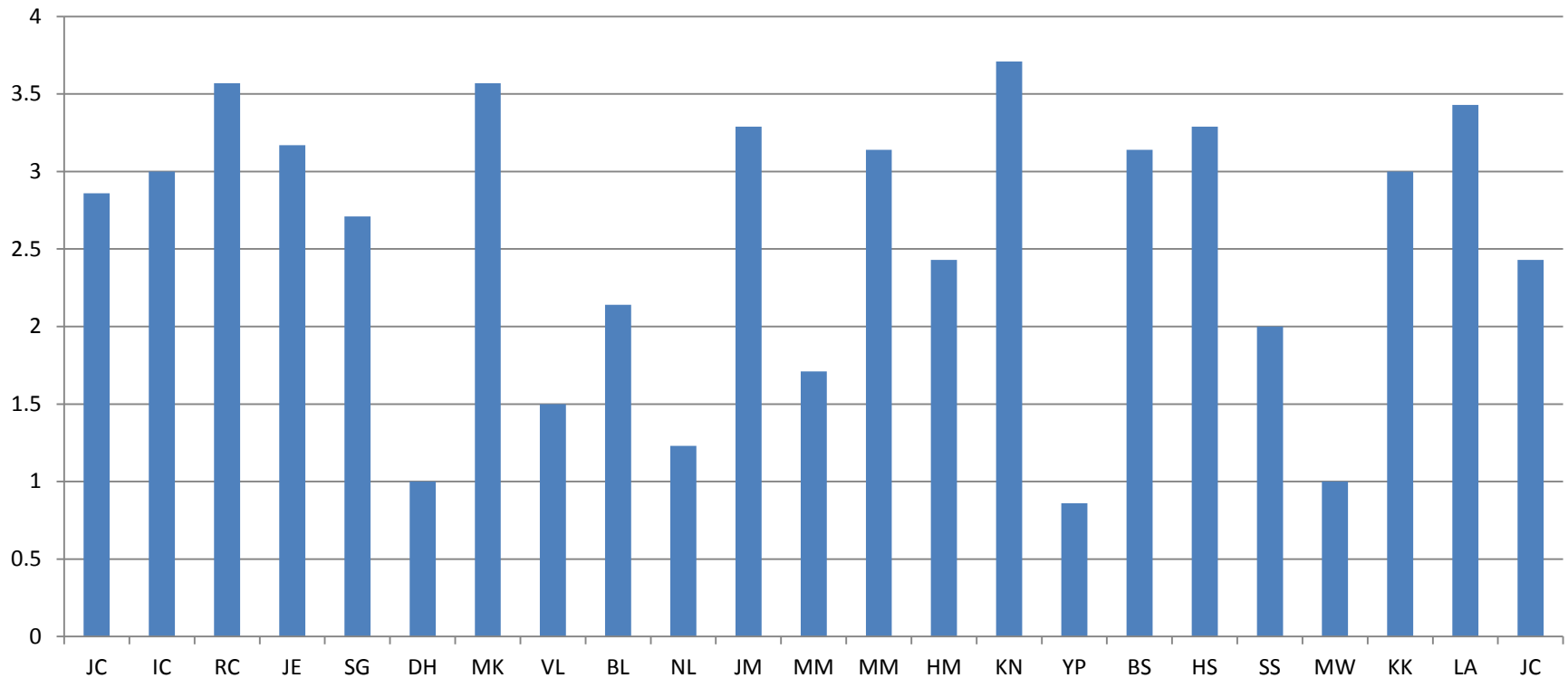
Float the Ship



Float the Ship



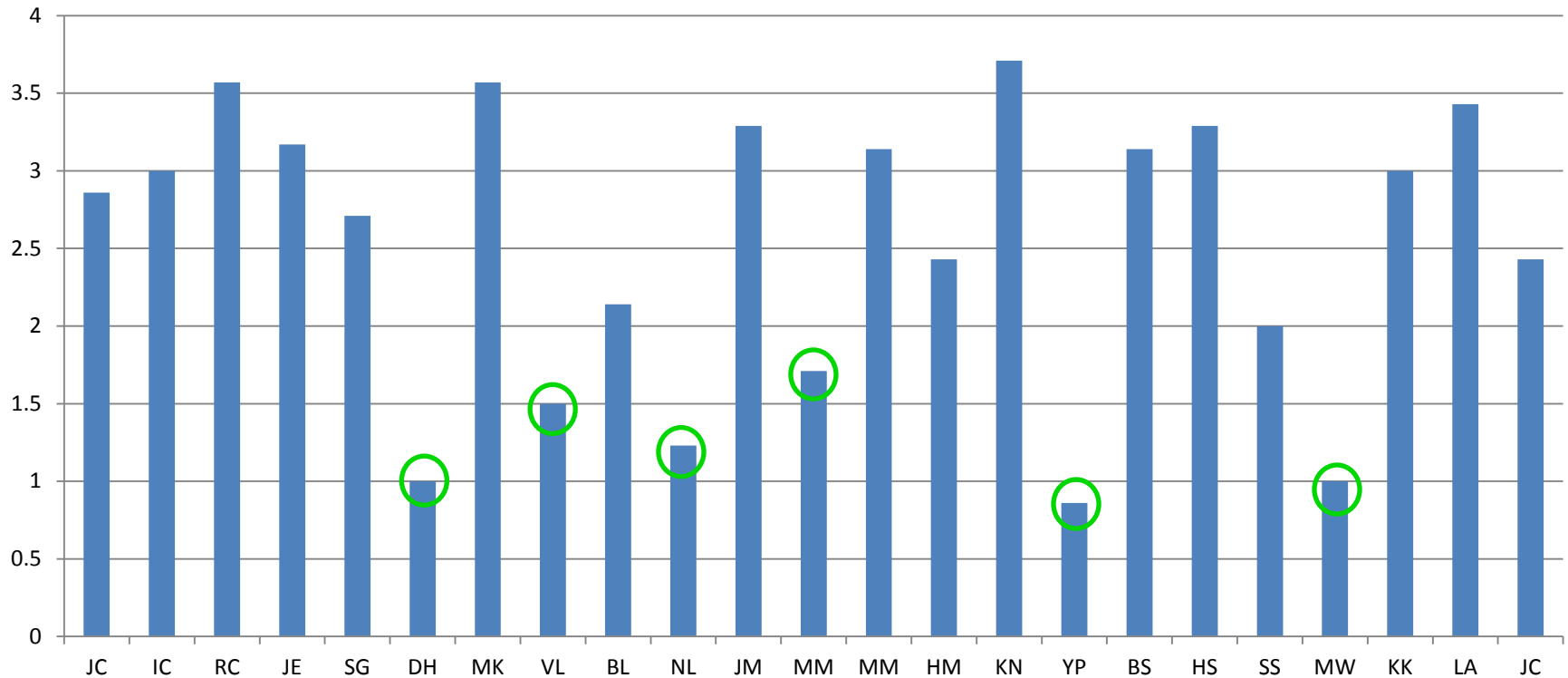
Mean Girls- 7th Grade GPA



Float the Ship



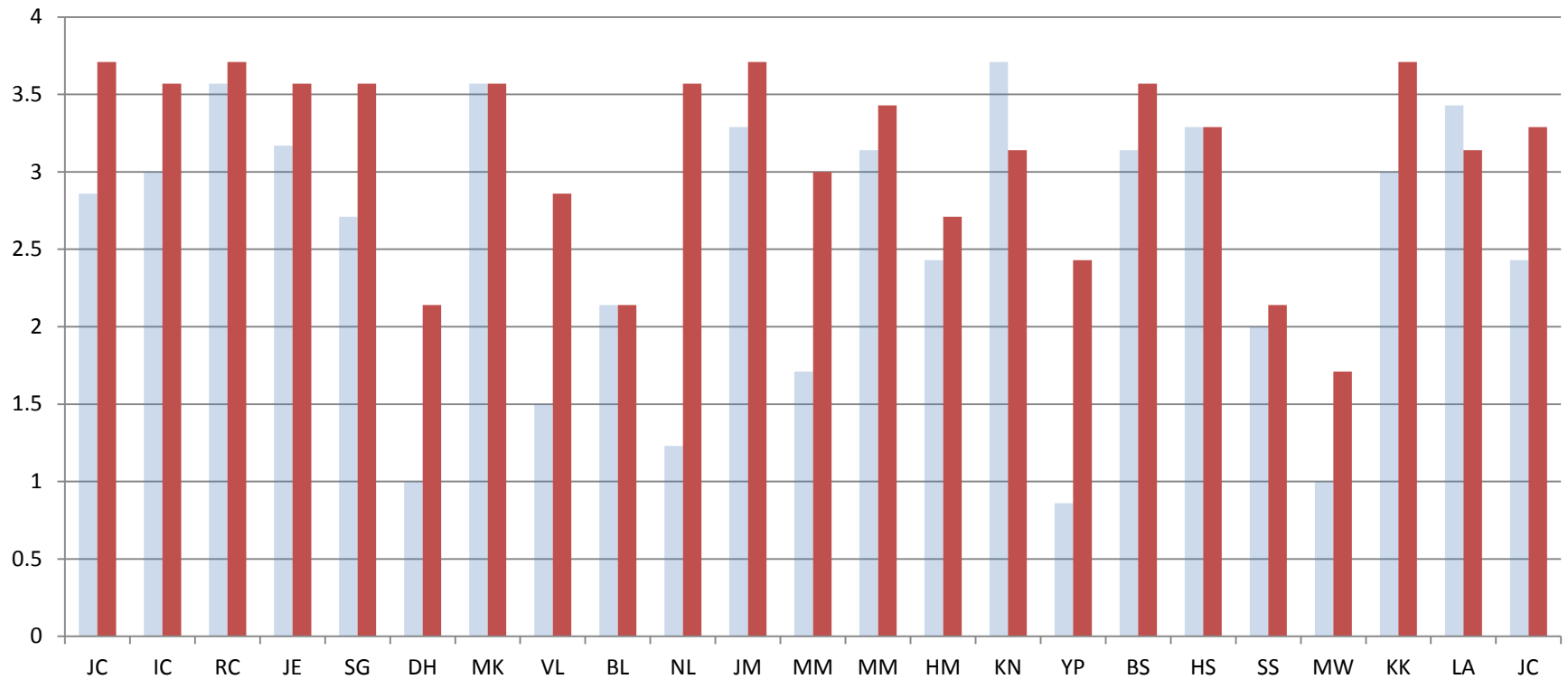
Mean Girls- 7th Grade GPA



Float the Ship



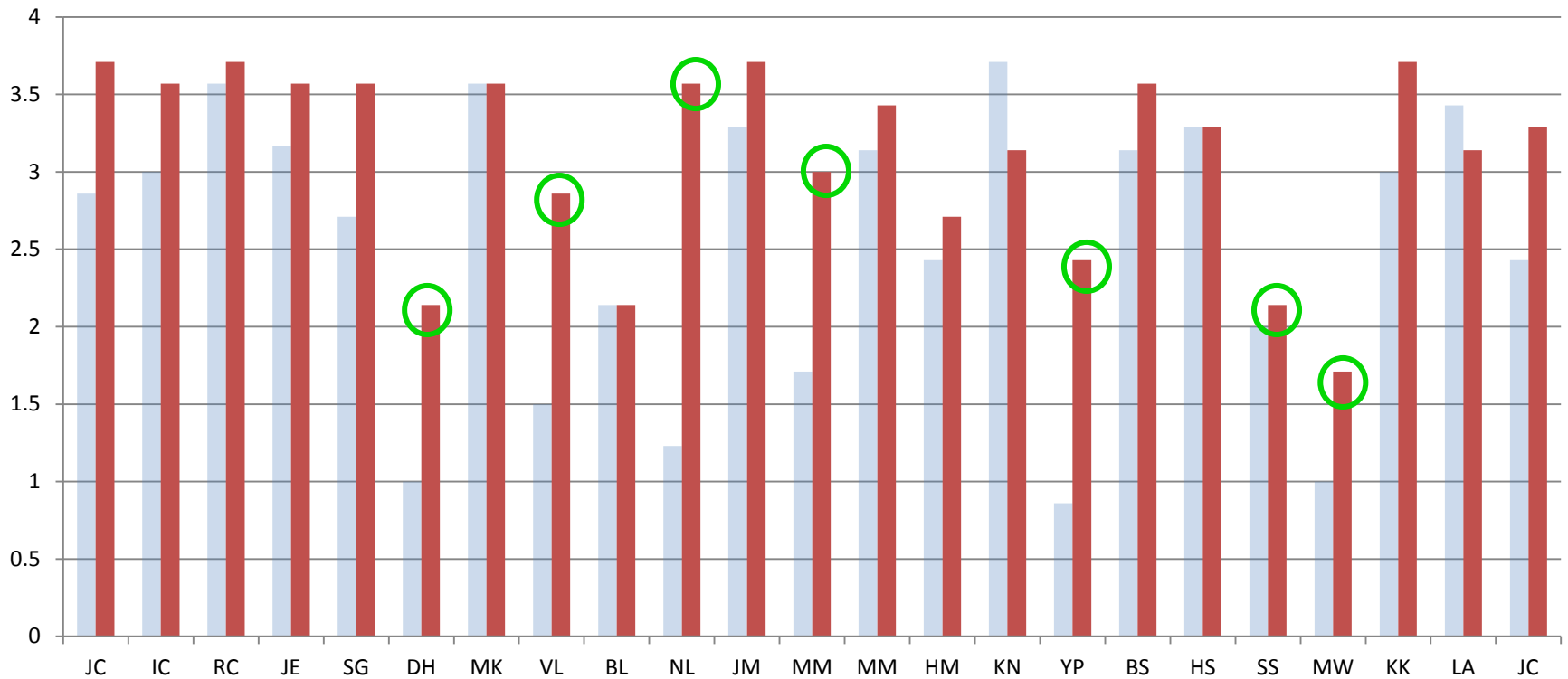
Mean Girls- 7th Grade GPA With 8th Grade Comparison



Float the Ship



Mean Girls- 7th Grade GPA With 8th Grade Comparison



Float the Ship



Benchmark Grade Level Percentile Rank Comparison

	2012 Grade 6 →	2013 Grade 7	2012 Grade 7 →	2013 Grade 8
MAZE	31 st Percentile →	39 th Percentile	31 st Percentile →	37 th Percentile
MCOMP	40 th Percentile →	50 th Percentile	45 th Percentile →	49 th Percentile
MCAP	30 th Percentile →	38 th Percentile	39 th Percentile →	42 nd Percentile

Behavior Referrals

2012-2013 1 st Semester	2013-2014 1 st Semester
1563	1185

Sail the Ship



GET TO WHERE WE NEED TO GO!

Sail the Ship



- **Where we are headed**
- Thirst for learning
- “Academic Parenting”
- Thought-provoking Teaching
- Dynamic Teaching
- Teachers who are experts in learning
- Constant feedback from data to...

Sail the Ship



- Navigate your course!

Resources



- Terrell Davis- tdavis@usd259.net
- Merilee Zimbelman- mzimbelman@usd259.net
- Mark Erickson- merickson@usd259.net
- Idea Starters:
 - **On Staff-** “CREATING THE UPSIDE DOWN ORGANIZATION: Transforming Staff to Save Troubled Children” (Ross, Grenier, and Kros)
 - **On Students-** “Why Don’t Students Like School?” (Willingham)
 - **On Instruction-** “VISIBLE LEARNING: A Synthesis of Over 800 Meta-Analyses Relating to Achievement” (Hattie)