

Curriculum and Instruction Committee Notes
November 15, 2016

Administration: Dr. McGarry, Gary Goldberg

Board Members: Denise Kline, Eileen Briamonte, Ana Vander Woude

Absent: Vicky Flynn

Curriculum:

Approval of the Revised Curriculum for:

- Science - Grade 6
- Science - Grade 8
- Science - Honors Chemistry
- Science - Advanced placement physics
- Tech - Graphic Design
- Tech - Photography 3

We are looking into making the Math program mirror the Language Arts program in Grades 5 through 8. We may not have enrichment level classes in math in these grades, just as the Language Arts program does not. This direction is being influenced by the student achievement results from PARCC. The average math scores in PARCC were generally lower than in Language Arts for Grades 5 through 8.

We discussed the impact on the rigor in the levels of courses. The change in math structure for Grades 5 through 8 is likely to have a positive impact on the level of rigor for those math classes not currently identified as “enrichment”.

After reviewing the criteria and placement process for honors classes, the administration will be revising the criteria and assessment processes for identifying students for placement in advanced classes. One aspect could be more challenging assessments to create wider differences in the results. Another could be increasing the opportunities for any student with excellent results to be placed in an honors program.

Chef Harkness has been working with administration on improving the flow and student readiness in the culinary program from grade 7 to grade 8 and then to the HS. Specific concepts and skills students should know from each lesson and year, before they move onto the next level will be clearly identified. Lesson components will also increase in attention to nutrition.

We also discussed the possibility of moving the culinary program at the high school to a sequenced Career and Technology Education program. There are a number of decisions and steps to take to implement this direction that are only in the very early stages of consideration at this point. This direction would make the program eligible for Perkins grant funding.

The first reading for a new policy for offering on-line courses to our students is on tonight's agenda. Any on-line offerings would be determined year to year and is based on our capacity for providing the course within the school day.

Also on the agenda is a request to approve a novel for use in Grades 7 and 8, primarily with ESL students. The novel, "A Long Walk to Water", is a free, on-line resource and will not be purchased as a hard copy.

Three new high school courses have been proposed for September 2017:

- Tech AP Computer Science Principles
- FPA--Advanced Acting
- FPA-Art History

The review process for each proposal is currently underway.

Instruction

This is the second year peer observations have been made available to tenured teachers to replace one of their three required evaluations. In this process, a teacher, during a free period, visits a colleague's classroom during a class. After the visit, the two discuss their experiences and share strategies and other ideas. It is really a professional development opportunity that is so well regarded, the state has offered the same opportunity to all districts to implement this school year. The percentage of tenured teachers selecting the opportunity in each school is:

School	Total Tenured
Village	95%
Indian Hill	86%
Satz	86%
High School	82%
Total	86%

Due to some scheduling conflicts, some adjustments were made in the Voyager program classes. A review will be undertaken to implement in next year's schedule to look at how the program classes interact with specials in the master schedule and see if any improvement is possible.

In some action research to determine the effectiveness of the Wordly Wise program, we plan to administer a quick research-based, district-created, baseline assessment to 7th graders. We'll update this as we proceed.

To improve the math support program in Grades 7 and 8, we began co-teaching structures in classes for additional math support instead of pulling students out of another class to do it. We can report nice progress in the effective use of co-teaching strategies in those class. The differentiation has been enhanced and students are receiving the support they need in those classes. This way of providing additional support to all learners is a consistent, progressive practice.

We discussed some preliminary thoughts about adjusting the length of class time periods in some grades to facilitate small group instruction that makes it possible for teachers to more effectively differentiate their instruction and integrate instruction across subjects.

Some students at the high school have a lab during lunch on the same day their teacher provides extra help during lunch. The remedy for this is that those students should reach out to their teachers and seek a different day for the extra help for class. The teacher should be accommodating.

Assessment:

After the distribution of the MAP scores to teachers, the offer of professional development on interpreting and taking action based on the results has been made to all staff.

The purpose of nightly homework as the assignment of student practice on newly learned content and skills has been re-emphasized to teachers and they have been advised against the use of homework for specific grades other than whether the homework was attempted or not.

Professional Development

On October 11th the staff had an effective professional development day. They worked on their SGO's and PDP's and had some Professional Learning Team meetings.

The planning for the Professional Development day on January 27th has begun with the Local Professional Development Committee that includes representatives of the staff. The schedule is not complete, but will offer a schedule of sessions identified by the Committee for all staff to attend. This is tentatively planned to be held at the HS because of the value it provides for all teachers to attend sessions on any topic. In addition there will be concurrent wellness activities ongoing all day in the lower commons.

We will also have, in December, professional development for high school in-class replacement co-teachers. This day is expected to include a whole group session, then visits to some classes, and end with more individualized sessions with the visited teachers.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The season for budgeting the 2017-2018 school year is upon us. Supervisors have been asked to develop a budget with the next five years in mind to plan resource purchases in a way that maintains a relatively consistent budget from year to year for the areas of their responsibility.

Our next meeting will be December 9th at 8:30 am.