

Shelley Richardson, Director of Instruction
December 11, 2017
Board Report

School Schedules

With the junior high and high school in the same building there have been some scheduling challenges that we will be addressing in January. Our goal is to examine our master schedules and the courses we currently offer. There are several courses that we would like to offer next year and will be examining how to make them available to our students. We will be looking into the effective utilization of staff and how changes could facilitate a new schedule with new classes. On January 3rd – 5th Mr. Elliot Merenbloom, an expert in school restructuring will be meeting with administrators and school staff to lead us as we focus on improving processes at the MCJH and MCHS. Mr. Merenbloom has spent a large part of his career helping schools create master schedules that organize the day into an efficient use of time and resources. We will look at our organizational strategies and break down problems to successfully implement effective solutions at both schools. We are anticipating working with Mr. Merenbloom to create an environment where students are afforded the best educational experience we can offer.

PLTW Grant

I am waiting to hear the results from the PLTW competitive grant that was submitted last month for the junior high school.

Our PLTW Engineering courses at the high school are currently being evaluated to determine if we want to continue with PLTW for Engineering in the following years. Mr. Newkirk and I have talked with our new instructor, Clint Phillips about the future of the vocational program. We will be having more meetings with Clint in the near future to discuss the path for our metals manufacturing course of study.

Early Childhood Grant Competition

The ISBE has announced that there will be a full re-competition for FY 2019 for: 1) Preschool for All, 2) Preschool for All Expansion, and 3) Prevention Initiative. That means that we will be competing with all other Illinois Preschool and 0-3 programs for funding next year. The Pre-K grant is due January 12, 2018 and the Prevention Initiative 0-3 grant is due February 9, 2018. We are expected to find out if we can continue our programs in April or May.

Peer Study

This year's Peer Study topics are listed here. The Peer Study will continue during Teacher Institutes and School Improvement Days until the end of the school year.

Peer Study 2017-18

Grade Level	Topic	Goal Statement	Team Leader
Kindergarten/First	Retention	Our goal is to determine if retention benefits students academically and decide if a change to district policy should be made. We also want to determine if there are any common factors among retained students.	Kelly Sanders
Second	1:1 Technology in K-2 Setting	Research on the use of 1:1 Technology within the lower Elementary Classroom. What has proven for effective instruction?	Lennette Holden
Third	Aligning Science to NGSS	Incorporate project based learning into our Science Curriculum and eliminate irrelevant chapters and content from our current program	Kiley Alka
Fourth	Parent Communication	Using technology to communicate with parents.	Danielle Ewald
Fifth	Building Classroom Community	Build a community of students who will experience the benefits of small acts of kindness by genuinely caring for others. Feeling important and valued will build self-esteem and confidence in the classroom.	Julie Merritt
Sixth	School Transitioning	To help transition the students and staff from the 5th grade elementary school to the 7th grade junior high.	Lana Yancey
7-12 Social Studies	NEWSLA, Classroom management software	Implement Newsela and discover and compare and contrast practical classroom management software.	Rodney Kieffer
7-12 ELA	Modern Libraries	We want to investigate what students and teachers want in a library with the purpose of modernizing the space so it is more effective as a learning commons area.	Elizabeth Savage
9-12 Math	New Class Offerings at MCHS Algebra IA, Algebra IB, and Informal Geometry	Our goal is to create a set of lower-level algebra and geometry courses to meet the needs of some students.	Jill Speth
7-8 Math	7th/8th grade math curriculum and performance review	Analyze PARCC scores of schools with similar demographics to our own to assess effective/efficient teaching strategies and tools.	Karen Dardeen
9-12 Science	New Class Offerings at MCHS...Integrated Science ONE and Integrated Science TWO?	MCHS Science Dept. is in search of potential upgrades for the Freshman & Sophomore science classes.	David Foshee

7-8 Science	Curricula Alignment with NGSS	Realign curricula including PLTW classes with NGSS and evaluate.	Elizabeth Kieffer
K-12 PE/Health	The Power of Feedback	Provide research and data on how the power of feedback can help students succeed in the classroom.	Tyler Buss
Technology	Study on Progression of Business Technology Classes from K-12	To set up a natural progression of Technology Classes for District #348 to enhance the level of skills for students.	Mike Mandrell
Vocational	Aspect of class size in vocational education.	Not completed	Ted Bishop
K-12 Music	Vertical Curriculum Alignment	We have the goal of establishing exit goals for Music Education K-12. We will specifically target the bridge years.	Kim Mandrell
K-12 Guidance	Classroom Management	Identify top 5 classroom management problems and provide research based strategies.	Laura Taylor
Special Education	Inclusion	Identify five benefits of inclusion.	Mike Aubrey