

SCN Meeting Minutes - Oct 15, 2019

Effective Grading Practices/Canvas

- Shane Scott, Director of Secondary Curriculum, introduced the topic.
- Discussion started in 2016 - recognizing that grading practices were not consistent throughout the district. This discussion will continue to evolve to implement best practices.
- Discussion contributors included:
 - Mike Sherman, Data Management Director
 - Abby Cunningham, Online Learning Coordinator
 - Carrie Jacobs, Online Learning Coordinator
- Driving Definition for Effective Grading Task Force of about 50 stakeholders:
The purpose of grading is to communicate achievement relative to course standards to students and parents.
- Effective Grading Practices - details available at [district site](#)
 - Grades and instruction should reflect the standards in the Iowa Core. If we don't have specific standards in Iowa Core, we look to federal level for standards
 - Criterion-referenced grades - students can demonstrate understanding at a specified level of proficiency. (Bell-curve grading is not part of Effective Grading.)
 - Achievement and behavior will be reported separately - this will continue to evolve. Students should get feedback at mid-semester and end of semester. These are called Essential Life Skills (grades 6-12) and Learner Behaviors for (for grades K-5).
 - Balanced Assessment System - Use of variety of balanced assessments that are aligned to standards and learning targets to demonstrate evidence of learning
 - Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress results from Spring 2019 testing will be reported in November
 - Involve students in the assessment process - allow for reassessment opportunities

Carrie Jacobs and Abby Cunningham - Canvas Overview

- District site has many resources including [video with full instructions](#)
- Canvas Gradebooks
 - Infinite Campus is a Student Information System - does "data" really well with minimal gradebook functionality
 - Canvas is a Learning Management System - handles management of curriculum
 - Teachers are on a spectrum of use as they learn to use itRecommendation for use of Notifications:

- Turn off everything except Announcements, Grading (check box to include scores), Added to Conversation, Conversation Message
- Canvas for Parents [video](#) - available on parent page of WDMCS.org and WDMCS Facebook page - about 45 minutes
- Elementary teachers are starting to implement as well - principals are working on integration plans for their buildings.
- All three Regents universities in Iowa use Canvas
- A parent asked how often grades are to be updated - Dr Remy confirmed it is still every two weeks
- Canvas provides cloud-based backups and teacher and parent support in off-hours to get tech support
- Final grades and transcripts will still be in IC

Open Forum with Dr. Remy

- Provided overview of data for grades K-6 from 18-19 School Year for Learner Behaviors, Literacy and Math.
- **STEPHANIE/LAINE - DO WE HAVE THIS DATA AVAILABLE?? - I didn't take specific notes because I thought we could link to it?**
 - Should be at 80% minimum or higher
 - Can be broken out by grade and teachers can drill down to student level
- At junior high level, requirements to take advanced level classes have been changed. Requirements used to be based on Iowa Assessment scores. This has been changed to looking for characteristics of advanced learners, and made it a family decision. This decision will lead to further discussions about the possibilities to remove barriers to advanced classes.
- Parent questions/concerns:
 - Are there security cameras in the junior high schools?
 - We have cameras at most main entrances of buildings. District knows we need to add cameras in almost every building. Not getting bids yet. Brian Abeling is leading the audit for this.
 - Westridge and Jordan Creek are lacking handicapped accessibility from the vestibules.
 - Dr. Remy will talk to Operations
 - Concern about the use of "room-clearing" in discipline situations
 - Dr. Remy stated that safety is always first concern for both the student in crisis and those not in crisis
 - Discussion included use of behavior interventionists and instructional coaches to implement different strategies for classroom management
 - Parent question about how kids are in mainstream classrooms vs specialized classrooms

- Dr. Remy suggested bringing Kandi Hensell (Director of Special Education) to a future meeting to discuss how these decisions are made
- Parent question about trauma-informed supports - is training done on a building-by-building basis, or district-wide?
 - District is waiting on guidance from the state
 - All staff have had opportunity to experience learning about ACES (scoring of trauma experiences) and suicide prevention
- Question about mulch in Westridge parking lot
 - Will be referred to Operations

New Ideas for Schools

- Do schools hold dances? Jordan Creek does a family dance each year
- Using Facebook Live for PTO meetings and having a text message go out prior to meeting
- Hillside Second Annual Blood Drive and changing up the structure of student council
- School Board Elections forum is Oct. 22 - 6:30-8 at LRC, sponsored by WDM Chamber
- SRC is working on a news release to share backgrounds of all candidates
- Preschool Palooza - Sat. Nov 2 at Hillside at 9:30-noon

Willow Dye - Director of Nutrition

- Elementaries are getting more permanent look to the equipment that is used to serve lunch.
- Cashiers should be *giving* a la carte items to students instead of kids picking them up. Nutrition is working to make this more consistent.
- Working to get more fruit and veggie a la carte options available to supplement cold lunches
- Parents can set up restrictions on their child's account
- Everything offered a la carte at elementaries are all Smart Snacks
- All students are allowed breakfast and lunch regardless of ability to pay, K-12
- Cashiers are not allowed to tell students *why* they are not allowed to get extra items (would either be parent restriction or no money in account). Students are told by cashiers they can't get item that day and the student needs to talk to parents
- A la carte items do provide revenue for other programs, such as unlimited fruit and veggies on salad bars
- Parent voiced concern about kids not being able to get up during lunch to get extra food items, etc
- Lunchroom expectations and etiquette video is in development w SCR - what's required, what's not?
- Students are encouraged to take what they will eat, but should be allowed to come back to get more if they are still hungry
- Goal is to get all kids through line in 8 minutes and to give them 10-15 minutes to sit and eat.

- Students have to be allowed to access water during lunch, milk is not required