

November 5

Academic Committee - Agenda

Jen, Noah, Lisa, Teresa, Maggie, Cheri, Troy Nightingale, Emily, Tom, Joell, John, Kassie, Jeff Eng, Molly,

Present:

1. Spanish Class Names Changes: Kassie and Jeff

Renaming courses so they align with other schools for college and transcripts. This will help delineate which courses are middle school and which courses are high school courses for credit. This shows colleges how many years they have actually taken in Spanish.

It was difficult for parents to understand how the progression of courses works when students enter after 6th grade and how it aligns with PSEO courses. If the curriculum is tweaked and the rigor is increased, we can increase high school class sizes. It would be nice to simplify the course names for students starting after middle school. We also need to offer a course for high school students to earn credit for the course even though they are beginning Spanish speakers. Looking at the numbers, it provides an idea of how these courses may look next year. The goal is to make High School Spanish 1 more rigorous so incoming students can catch up to the students who have been taking Spanish. This will enable them to move on to Spanish 2.

Concerns about scheduling students for numbers. Why aren't students just repeating a course? If this class is determining the students' schedules, it will make it difficult to schedule.

In math if they fail a class, they can typically find a way to catch up; in Spanish there is no way to catch up and they continue to fail. In this way, it will help them stay on track.

This means some 8th graders will have a course that is counting toward the GPA. This will be confusing to parents when they look at HS transcripts.

We need to worry about what we are doing, not what other schools are doing.

The hope is to offer our 8th graders high school credit for Spanish. The flow chart which has been handed out shows the progression depending upon when a student begins at MSA. We need to let students know that this will be happening and communicate this clearly to families.

Are the new course names fine with the committee?

We are looking for consistency in the explanation and rigor of coursework. It needs to be made clear MS Spanish 1a and 1b equals one year of HS Spanish 1.

It needs to be made clear in the course guide. By January is usually when teachers bring classes for next year. This flowchart and the name changes need to be approved by the BOD.

2. Spanish Class Flowchart Changes: Kassie and Jeff

See above.

3. AP Task Force: Update by Joell

This task force met last month.

Minimum of three students are needed to offer an AP course.
Departments will decide yearly about courses to be offered.
Summer homework will be given for all AP courses except Art and students who do not pass the first AP exam will be dropped from the class.
AP teachers will determine the number of students allowed in their classes.
Students who drop an AP course after 10 school days will be given a "W" on their transcript.
Students who are approved to take AP will be given a contract about requirements and maintaining grades for the course which requires parent and student signatures.

4. Communicate High School Transcript Changes to Parents/Guardians: Joell

Discussed with John the issues with Skyward and transcripts.
Taking a HS class in MS, we still have to keep it as a MS school.
Then Joell has to make a new course and manually add each student so it shows up on the HS transcript. This could be a full days work.
If parents get to decide this is more difficult.
She wants it to be a decision made by the BOD that it is included, and parents can have the choice to opt out of MS courses on the transcript.
A list should be provided of the courses that will be included on a high school transcript.

5. High School Classes Taken in Middle School: What did your department decide?

Algebra 3
Spanish 2

UMTYMP

6. Activities Record Verification: update by Lisa or Noell

Want to name it a record instead of a transcript.
There will be future meetings to discuss many questions that came up:

- How will this work with Skyward?
- What about middle schoolers who participate in varsity?
- High schoolers are supposed to meet with Shannon to go over any discrepancies or concerns with what is listed on the record.

7. WBWF update: Tom

This is the report due by December 15 to the state. The BOD will go over this at the next meeting.

There is a new section related to ESSA and teachers and student access to everything.
Teacher tenure is being looked at in larger districts as a problem in staffing at the lowest performing schools.

We did not meet the goal on page 7 about proficiency rates for African American students in math. Our goal was 75% proficiency up from 46%. We achieved 71% proficiency.

We did not meet the goal on page 8 about all 8th graders increasing proficiency rates in math. Our goal was 82% proficiency up from 73%. We achieved 77% proficiency.

We did meet the goal on page 8 for ELL students.

We did meet the goal on page 10 to increase the average ACT composite score from 27.7 to 28.0. The students achieved a 28.4.

We did meet the goal on page 11 for a 100% of 12th graders who began the year at MSA graduating.

They have met twice, and have another meeting coming up.

The new goals MDE is asking us to look at do not work with current MDE assumptions. Our counts are so small that our statistics go up and down.

If we remove the grade qualifier from the goals as stated by MDE, there is a gap/discrepancy for African American students in reading and math overall. This will likely be the focus for goal setting.

8. Professional Development: Tom

The PD task force will meet to discuss how to implement WBWF once goals are determined.

9. Academic Goals Department Plans: Lisa

Please make sure to turn these into John

These are due 11/30/18.

10. HS students who enroll late: Table

11. Curriculum Review Process: Table

Joell will be requesting course information soon and will send out documents for everyone to complete.

Emily would like to get a task force together to go over the course book for an overhaul once new classes have been submitted.

Next Meeting: December 3 at 8 am in room 4A

