

Academics Tentative Agenda

May 6, 2019

Room 4A at 8:00 A.M.

Cheri, Joell, Emily, Lisa, Jen, Hannah, Tom, Teresa, Maggie, John, Noah, Molly, Noelle Haland, Valerie Meyer

1. Modified Transcripts(Lisa) - see attached for the new procedure that will be brought to the teachers and then put in the grading handbook.

The task force recommendations are in the handouts:

Cutting off the enter date to MSA at MEA break

A medical diagnosis could trigger a modified curriculum indicator...only decided upon with a meeting.

When 15% of the curriculum is being modified/alterd/etc., then the curriculum is modified. It will be only for agreed upon courses. It must be a team decision.

Modifications do not occur until the meeting and a decision has been made.

If there is any part of any semester that is modified of a year long course, it would still be on the transcript that the course was modified (see handout example of what it looks like).

How does this work on IEP students' transcripts?

This will need to be communicated to all families in the handbook as well through communications during the summer.

This needs to be communicated with the entire community.

Now we have something in place to handle medical situations, IEPs, and 504s. There is not cutoff for making these decisions. It can be instituted through a parent or staff member.

At the student of concerns meetings, administration will bring a list of students who are close or over the number of absences (20) before triggering a meeting.

Now we have something in place to catch these students.

There will be a note on the excused absences form that parents fill out, reminding them of the excessive absences policy.

How do colleges look at transcripts with modified on them?

There are other schools that do this. This is what happened to me. There is a place to fill in this information on college applications. A transcript is simply an academic record, and the colleges would like to know about modifications for students.

We are not a flagged school through MDE, but Skyward would flag students who are at that mark.

This will be brought to the next all staff meeting for discussion.

2. Pass/Fail - only for TAs (Lisa) - needs to be put in the the grading handbook
P/F is just for TAs based on the modified curriculum task force decisions.

Are there credits offered for TAs? There should be. Joell will check to make sure it is going through on Skyward.

3. Transfer Students - (Lisa) The minutes are attached.

A. Major change that the task force is recommending is:

- Middle school enrollment be kept open all school year (grades 6-8). Middle school will have a modified transcript if enrolling after a certain date.
- Close enrollment for grades 10-12 after the start of the school year.
- Grade 9:
 - Increase ninth grade capacity from 75 to 82 students
 - After the start of the school year if the enrollment falls below 75, then enroll from the waiting list but close enrollment after the 30th day of school.
 - This will be brought to the teachers at the May 15 staff meeting and then to the May
 - BOD meeting.

Increasing 9th grade enrollment over the summer will allow for student attrition during that school year.

This will require a motion from the BOD.

Our waitlist diminishes over the school year.

If it goes below 75, what happens?

We take the hit, and we can set a date for closing enrollment. This can be changed. We've given ourselves a cushion.

This will be brought to the staff for discussion.

Recommended to change the closing enrollment after the first four school days.

B. New Introduction to MSA Class - The class and job descriptions are attached.

New 9th graders who are entering MSA will take this elective class, Freshman Seminar. This is a support for students to help them be successful at MSA. The teacher teaching this course will work with other 9th grade teachers to develop curriculum and supports for these students. Band students will be able to take Wind Ensemble online and hopefully have advisory with the new music teacher.

This will be sent out for teachers to apply.

4. WBWF/PD (Tom)

The tentative PD calendar is a handout.

We need flexibility so there are dates open for speakers and things that come out. This task force will meet again after school starts to look at those dates.

The new task force will be convened in January for 20-21 school year.

Is it possible to give teachers at least one hour on each PD day to work in their rooms?

The topics do cover the relicensure topics teachers need.

5. Repeat Course (Joell)

In thinking more about the section in the grading handbook, Repeat Course, I would like the following questions answered so that this section can be updated:

A. Having an R on the transcript will not give credit for the course. What if the student didn't fail the course (for example, the student received a final of a D+ for Algebra II and had to retake the course based on the math department procedure)? We are counting credits for high school (21.5) and the student could be short since the class wasn't included in the credit count even though they officially passed the course.

B. Will the repeat course procedure be followed for PSEO courses or just MSA courses? We have a number of students who fail a PSEO course each year. Is college courses different than MSA courses?

C. Also, for the student who was retaking most of the sixth grade classes in seventh grade, and passes the classes, would we follow the repeat course procedure or should this be just for high school?

D. I would also like the procedure to indicate that the student/parent should inform the scheduler (me) if they would like the previous grade replaced with an R. It's a challenge to keep track of all the students who are retaking courses, especially with math and Spanish.

Repeat Course: R

Students who choose to repeat a class can do so following this criteria upon completion of the course:

1. The same course will appear twice on the transcript.
2. Whichever course has the better grade will be given the letter grade.
3. The course that has the worse grade will be issued an R for repeat. No credit will be given for the course with an R for repeat.

How do we want to handle counting credits for this?

Because of our criteria for earning a certain grade, this needs to be clear.

If a course is repeated, they will not earn credits for their first attempt.

PSEO courses that are used in place of MSA classes, should be handled in the same way.
Should students be offered the option?
PSEO kids need to be held to the same standards for MSA course requirements.

For middle school should this be implemented? Because it isn't on transcripts, no.

The students need to request the R on the transcript.

Does this affect middle school students who take high school courses? Yes. It does not affect their high school GPA.

Joell will update the handbook.

6. Other items?

Go over the grading handbook at the next meeting.

7. Goals for next year?

Data collection for the new procedures. What worked? What needs to be changed?

8. Do we need a meeting in June? Yes

- a. Monday, June 3 at 8:00 A.M.
- b. Monday, September 9 at 8am