

## Academics Committee Agenda

May 10, 2021

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Zoom link:

Members: Michelle Kurkoski, Maggie Burggraaff, Tom Johnston, Joell Pundsack, Emily Graveen, Cheri Howe, Jeana Albers, Hannah Kostichka, Noah Langseth, Teresa Ward, Kirstin Knutson, Tara Richert, Noelle Haland, Kassie Larson, Wendell Sletten, Jennifer Heydt-Nelson, Angie Haverland, Jennifer Bartle, Paula Akakpo, David Pushparaj John, Jill Findlay, Courtney Gregar, Shannon Froberg, Mariah Smith

1. WBWF Updates (Tom) - any new info?

No Updates

2. MCA snapshot results available?
  - a. Share with AC and discuss?

These results cannot be shared until August. MDE has had a waiver granted that this year's MCA scores will not be used for school monitoring. The schools may use the scores how they wish.

3. Review PSAT(Dec) and ACT scores (if taken at MSA receive in May-June)
  - a. Do we have these reports?
  - b. [ACT Summary Report](#)
  - c. Share overview docs with AC

A summary of the ACT results is attached to the agenda. Almost all of our students tested, only 3 seniors and 3 juniors chose not to take the test for each session. Because of COVID, this year's seniors tested in the fall, this year's juniors took the test in the spring.

All of the ACT information is located in the teacher resource folder under standardized testing.

We will be utilizing the data for our departments and our SAM contract for next year.

4. Students can see their classes online - have any issues arisen?

Joell will close the view for students due to class changes. It is helpful for the parents and students to see it for registration for next year. The HS schedule is fixed, complete, and finalized.

Engineering will be replaced with Astronomy.

5. Supplemental Online Learning Update (Emily) - any new information?

This is decided case-by-case. We may have students who are at risk of not passing after this year. But it will be revisited next year.

6. Tutoring program update

0 hours have been used in March or April on Tutor.com. There were 1500 hours available, and we have used 26 hours. It is open for any student to get access to.

NHS hours are spotty. Kids do not always sign up when tutors are available. Tutors are not always available. Because it is May, and many students have fulfilled their volunteer hours, there will be even fewer sessions offered for the rest of the school year.

7. Enrollment update (Joell) (update this month?)

We are at BOD capacity for MS.

8. Scheduling and Registration update (Joell) 5 minutes

Joell needs to rearrange the MS schedule based on course changes. The performing arts are offering year long choir and orchestra for MS.

9. AP Testing update (any new information?)

No new information.

10. Policies 603 update - has a task force for the dyslexia requirement started?

A task-force has not been set up. Tom has reached out to The Reading Center. They will be here to do on site training this fall for the staff. 1 1/2 hours of training and a 1/2 hour for q and a (second day of staff week). Moving forward, students need to be screened for dyslexia if there is a reading concern. There will be a place to mark this on the student support form if teachers believe there is a reading issue.

- Who will do the screening?

- We have to look into this further. The Reading Center does screening, but are not sure if this is the way to go. Indigo may have resources as well.

11. Curriculum Review Cycle discussion

- a. Report back from the department heads - how do we assess the efficacy of the curriculum?

SS - based on state standards, beginning and end of year knowledge check to use as a comparison from year to year, alumni surveys (possible though wouldn't be likely initially because of the standards overhaul from state of MN),

Sci - reviewing assessments in curriculum, checking they meet MSA and state standards

Arts - based off of student need and what what students want

Spanish - based off of national standards, look for gaps, assessment scores

Math - adopted new curriculum last year, how does it work with student engagement, access to materials, matches state standards, and MCA scores

ELA - based on state standards, off of ACT/PSAT/MCA scores in reading, writing, grammar

12. Modified TF update (Kirstin)

There is a finalized proposal. Staff should review this for the staff meeting on Wednesday. There are five different criteria for a P/F. It was determined which individuals are part of this team to make this decision.

No other schools locally put their grading policies on line (except St. Croix Prep and NOVA).

P/F is commonly used across the country rather than a modified transcript/gradebook. This is based on student need. P/F would require a different gradebook in Skyward. Students are given the option if they fulfill one or more of the criteria. Once decided, it

will remain until the end of a semester or school year.

- What is the final grade if only one semester is P/F.
  - The final grade is a letter grade of the semester that was graded.
- Will every teacher have a separate grade book?
  - There needs to be a concrete decision, and not teacher choice. If all are separate gradebooks, it takes a lot of extra time and work. That is likely 80+ hours added each year. The teachers need to make a decision overall for everyone. This will be on the Wednesday staff meeting agenda, and a vote will take place after the meeting.
- Is there a way in Skyward to “hide” assignments?
  - Joell will look into it for Wednesday’s staff meeting. These instructions will be shared with the staff.

#### 13. PD Taskforce update?

This task force met on 4/27. They identified four different areas of PD for next year.

1. Support gifted/talented and support struggling students
2. Mental health support.
3. Technology gaps.
4. Equity - utilizing one source we could use for multiple years.

#### 14. OLL Taskforce update (Maggie) - any new information?

OLL will be discussed at the BOD workshop and meeting next week. We are seeking approval to send in the application for the BOD.

We only need to offer one class for the application to get approval through MDE. This gives MSA time to determine if this is a direction we would like to move toward.

#### 15. Department Meetings general calendar?

This would be a good idea for uniformity and general discussion topics. There may be a list already.

#### 16. Summer school/credit recovery - TJ

Tom and Shannon are interested in offering/providing summer school/credit recovery for some students this summer. We have more students poised to not pass or move on in their classes this year as opposed to most years; this is likely due to Distance Learning and COVID. At the BOD workshop, it was mentioned that schools are providing summer programs for these students.

This would be predominantly for MS students. They are suggesting 6 weeks, beginning mid June. Teachers would likely be paid \$30.00 an hour. According to MDE requirements, any licensed teacher, no matter of content or grade level licensure, is eligible to hold these positions. Ideally these teachers are a group of teachers who work together to support all the students.

This year, likely because of DL, we have 11 and 12 year olds who struggled. We need to support these students. DL and COVID are not their fault. They are scoring well on Fastbridge, but failing classes. An example of a student who might qualify for this program is one who earned a final grade at 55%. The teacher can determine if there are specific areas/units that the student could complete to show they have mastery of

those skills, and then they can move on.

Funding will be determined before this is launched.

- If the teacher is not licensed in the area the student has a need, how will they receive the help they need? (ie: math/Spanish) Can they work with a teacher in that content area? It shouldn't be about busywork.
  - For many of these students, we are looking at different ways to assess mastery...not looking at content teaching.
- Will this be in person?
  - That is the hope for the majority of these students. Transportation will be a barrier, so there may be some students who need to continue virtually.
- If we go this route, but a teacher needs consultation from another teacher, can these consultation teachers be paid as well?
  - This has not been discussed, but can be looked at.
- Does Fastbridge show what is being assessed?
  - It shows skills mastered, developing, emerging.
- Can teachers look at the Fastbridge scores? Can grades be adjusted based on Fastbridge? Is there comparable data to use?
  - Unlikely, because with math, it is adaptive, not equivalent to what is being taught in class.
  - Many struggling students may be failing summative, formative, and overall assessments. Students with missing work, but passing tests are in a different category.
- Is this just for this year because of COVID? Is this based on the whole year or just specific units?

Northstar Online could work for credit recovery for HS students. Departments would need to approve these.

This will allow MS students to be on campus.

There may be teachers and students who are unwilling to work on this because of mental health reasons.

- Is this for every student or is it at a teacher discretion? Maybe there are students who clearly need to retake the course. Maybe there are students who only need to make up a small amount of work.
  - This can be adjusted as needed based on student need.

MDE is offering funding for this. For reporting purposes, we need to know which students are taking advantage of this. A program needs to be put together.

Hopefully Cody will have information about this at the Finance meeting today.

Final grade reports will be run today, and this will help determine what the numbers are.

Next Meeting: Will be June 14, 2021 \*\*stil via Zoom\*\*

## Academics Committee Yearly Calendar

Month	Description
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Should the first Academics Committee meeting be in August (decide at June mtg)</li><li>• Get BOD SAM Academic Goals, and after determining any additional goals, set a process for meeting those goals</li></ul>
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1st Fastbridge Inventory</li><li>• MCA results will go to the departments so that each department can determine how to approach their Academic Goals (For the 18-19 school year, this means Goals 1,2 and 5) When and how should they report the changes they made?</li><li>• Share last year's WBWF with SAM for the Annual Report</li><li>• Review - John sends new legislation/standards to the corresponding departments annually</li></ul>
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Annual report due October 1</li><li>• Review of last year's WBWF report to the Academic Committee</li></ul>
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review of last year's WBWF report to BOD in November meeting</li><li>• Departments should begin to plan for next year's electives and to detail a back-up plan in case of low enrollment in the elective classes</li></ul>
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WBWF report due to John by Dec 1 and to MDE (mid-Dec)</li><li>• 12/18 Course lists and descriptions due to scheduling office</li><li>• 2nd Fastbridge Inventory</li></ul>
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Office needs a list of classes offered by each department by the middle of the month (including AP and electives)</li><li>• 1/3/18 - AP class schedule available to students</li><li>• PSAT results can go to the departments</li><li>• Review Academic Agreements and Open House Expectations</li></ul>
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students sign up for their classes</li><li>• WBWF presentation and input from public</li></ul>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3rd Fastbridge Inventory before Spring Break</li><li>• Report how AP signup process is proceeding</li><li>• Annual review = Policies 601 and 603</li></ul>

April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educational Program Policy committee should review model policies #613-620</li> <li>• Professional Development Task force will have data to begin to plan for the following year</li> </ul>
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCA snapshot results available</li> <li>• Review PSAT(Dec) and ACT scores (if taken at MSA receive in May-June)</li> <li>• Students can see their classes online</li> </ul>
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academics and WBWF committee will make recommendations and present them to Board by looking at the MCA snapshots and determine Professional Development for the following school year</li> <li>• Determine if we should have a meeting in August or September?</li> <li>• Reflect on goal setting for next school year?</li> </ul>
July	