

Academics Agenda  
September 13, 2021  
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  
Room 4D

Members: Michelle Kurkoski, Maggie Burggraaff, ~~Joell Pundsack~~, Emily Graveen, Jeana Albers, Noah Langseth, Teresa Ward, Tara Richert, ~~Noelle Haland~~, Kassie Larson, Wendell Sletten, Jennifer Heydt-Nelson, ~~David Pushparaj John~~, Cody Schneipp, Cecelia Dodge, Kate Hinton

1. Meeting location - rotate rooms?

Building A 2

Building B 202

Building D 4

2. Select chair

Michelle K

3. Maggie volunteered to take notes - thank you!

4. Meeting dates for the year

When the Monday is a day off of school, we will have a meeting it on that Tuesday.

5. New task force as a sub group of AC: online/July term/recovery

As part of an Academics Committee task force, Cody Schneipp will be attending meetings as well. This task force will look at ideas for and ways to implement credit recovery and additional elective courses. Some topics this task force will look at include: July Term, funding, electives, WIN, credit recovery, enrichment courses, ALC funding, and OLL.

An all staff invite will be sent out: Kate, Noah, Maggie, Cody will also be on this task force.

6. WBWF Updates?

Cecilia is looking into how this works and what the schedule is for getting this completed. Department chairs will go through MCA data with the departments, and this will lead into WBWF data.

ACT/PSAT data can be provided as well. A summary usually arrives in October or later.

7. Recruiting Diverse Staff Update?

How did this function in the past? It seems like an administrative function. They looked at language and where to post jobs. Other areas need to be looked at as well. This could be folded into a DEI (diversity, equity, inclusion) task force.

Male to female hispanic lgbtq

This was put into the Academics Committee because it directly affects students.

Fostering these students to go into education. There is a course at UofM which explores teaching. It is a two credit course. It's advanced TA-ing. They are tutoring and teaching small lessons. This is through College in the Schools and it's curriculum/timeline must be followed.

8. Supplemental Online Learning Update?

There is nothing to currently add. However, it is important to be aware that we must allow students to do this if they are interested.

9. Enrollment update (Joell)

**It is important to note that most schools are experiencing the same enrollment turnover.**

There have been over 130 new students enrolling for the 21-22 school year. A typical

year has between 100-110.

52 students who were enrolled at MSA in 20-21 withdrew for the 21-22 school year. This is higher than the typical year when there are between 25-30 student withdrawals.

Total number of students, including new students for 21-22 who have withdrawn since August 12 = 39 students.

Currently, we are still enrolling two sixth graders and one eighth grader.

We are also following up with a few families of students who have been no-shows.

The Prediction is the enrollment changes will slow down in the next two weeks.

#### 10. Scheduling update (Joell)

All teacher and student scheduling has been moved to Kate Hinton and Emily Graveen for high school; Lela Olson and Isaac Johnson will be working on middle school. Contact the counselors or Assistant Directors with any questions regarding the student schedules, classroom sizes, teacher schedules, student placement, etc.

#### 11. 1st Fastbridge Inventory

This needs to be set up through the MS counselor and administrator. Struggling kids would be pulled for screening tests.

#### 12. Supporting Struggling Middle Schoolers

ALC money can be used to pay teachers to work outside of the school day to help these struggling MS students. Credit recovery should occur for students during the year, before school, if possible. It would not need to be everyday. The earliest possibility of this beginning would be January.

It would be ideal if MS was on a quarter grading schedule. We can use any data we would like to determine who is eligible (teacher observation, Fastbridge, course work, MCA, etc).

ALC is a separate school within a school.

An issue may be content area teachers teaching the curriculum and finding interested staff. Out of field placements are easy to obtain right now, especially in MS, and especially if there is an identified skill set to be completed.

### 13. Review how we give credit (high school)

We should review the grading cycle and assess how credits are based on a full year. We end up with a lot of every other day courses. There are ways to improve or change this.

Semester grades would allow us to offer gym and health as semester courses. Our current schedule is complex. However, some of these kids need to have a regular schedule that includes movement. If they do not have PE for  $\frac{1}{2}$  a year, many of them will just be sedentary. For the MS, the reason for every other day is to give them consistency with PE/Study Skills/.

Is it difficult to do MS quarters and HS semesters because of math and Spanish.

The hybrid block is workable. However moving to a full block would be even more suitable, but it is expensive. We would likely need 4-5 more teachers to make it work. This has a lot of benefits to it, but it would require a shift in standards and curriculum.

We should look at the potential of best scheduling practices for students. Some of our issues are with Skyward. We should decide this soon in order to determine if trimesters or semesters are a better option.

A full block schedule would allow for more consistency and would provide student centered scheduling.

If we are going to make a change, it would be useful to change the schedule and the credits at the same time. Quarter grading would still have semester grading, too.

A task force should be created. It could be absorbed into the calendar committee.

Skyward is not a modern way to create a schedule. They need to come and show us if Skyward can create a full block schedule.

We may need to look at getting rid of Skyward and look at something like Infinte Campus. Even when schools do this, many of them keep Skyward finance.

This will be brought up to the staff by email by Kate, and it should be floated at Department Meetings to garner interest from other teachers.

### 14. MCA results will go to the departments so that each department can determine how to

approach their Academic Goals (For this school year, this means Goals 1,2 and 5?)  
When and how should they report the changes they made?

The departments will look at SAM goals on Wednesday.

15. Share last year's WBWF with SAM for the Annual Report?

Review - Admin sends new legislation/standards to the corresponding departments annually.  
Have there been any changes?

Cecelia will check to make sure it was turned in. We are not currently aware of any needed changes.

The science conversion has already been made.

Social Studies conversion decisions have been delayed due to COVID, maybe May of 2022.

16. Covid-19 Group liaison update - do we still need this?

Right now, Kate is keeping teachers apprised of students who are in quarantine and can work asynchronously while they are out.

This topic can be removed from this group.

17. Fall 2020 Update?

Next Meeting: Will be October 11, 2021 at 8:00 a.m., Building A, Room 2

Department updates (regular)

## 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</li></ul>

	mtg) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 - Adminsends 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 Adminby 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</li> </ul>

	<p>them to Board by looking at the MCA snapshots and determine Professional Development for the following school year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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	