



Academic Committee
March 23, 2021
11:00 at CT Young

Participants:

Ryan McDonald, Board Vice President
Joan Stidham, Dir. of Curriculum
Megan Rivet, Student Services Director
Holly Simms, Middle School Principal
Lisa Whiteley, Dir. of Communication

**Please know that no decisions were made during this meeting. The purpose of this committee is to discuss the academics of Three Rivers Local School District. Any District decisions are made during Board of Education meetings. These meeting dates can be found on the Three Rivers Local School District website.*

1) Virtual Academy Update

- Elementary will not offer a virtual program for the 2021-2022 school year.
- ESSR II to cover virtual teacher, aide, and curriculum for middle school/high school virtual platforms.
- Conversation around students who will continue in virtual academy and who will return to in-person instruction.

2) Updates from Taylor Middle School

- Working with language arts teachers on writing to vertically align writing at TMS.
- 5th/6th grade expectations were too high for their academic levels. Worked to stay on target with student expectations that align with content standards.
- Benchmark assessments were completed this year in math, ELA, and science. It gives immediate data feedback to identify areas for improvement prior to State testing.
- Students are learning to restate the question throughout the writing process.
- Grades 5-8 are not aligned with the writing process.
- Starting to align elementary with middle school and into high school. This should help with student transition.

- All TMS teachers now have access to each other's rubrics to help align their work.
- Math is showing the biggest gap from the loss of learning with covid.
- Looking to review the fundamentals of the 2020-2021 school year to kick off the first few weeks of the 2021-2022 school year to bridge the gap.
- TMS teachers using one another's strengths to teach particular components of the standards. The "our kids" approach to support all of the students.
- The 8th grade trip to DC is still scheduled. Camp Kern is also scheduled to continue. Camp Kern does not allow overnights at this time. Three Rivers staff was in agreement to do so, but Camp Kern will not allow.
- Any 9th grade students that did not get to go to DC last year due to covid can go to DC with the 8th graders this year.
- There are still some concerns with the museums opening in time for the DC trip. Everything else seems to be open.
- Testing schedule starts next week. With the free breakfast program, all students will have access to a breakfast before testing begins.
- Benchmark testing will be done earlier in the 2021-2022 school year.
- Screeners are also available throughout the year between the benchmark test and state testing.
- How do you communicate individual learning gaps to parents? A: Some teachers mailed benchmark test results to parents. Staggered start will allow for parents to have a conversation with parents to explain the report in detail so that parents can understand their child's results.
- Staggered start open house was better for a more individualized start to the school year with parents and students.
- Student interest in spanish and french are down.
- TMS has added a Character class as an elective.
- TMS created videos this year to share what the electives offer.
- For virtual events, consider stating a disclaimer to the public as to why this particular event is virtual and not in person.
- Outdoor events are difficult to plan during covid because they are weather dependent.
- Planning on the 8th-grade party as their welcome into high school. Considering the courtyard space to make this event happen.

3) Summer Programming Update

- Hiring a position to oversee the planning, staffing, scheduling
- A document is being created to be released to families prior to spring break. This document will show what opportunities will be available this summer for extended learning.
- Staff have been surveyed to see who would be interested in teaching different content this summer.
- Tutoring will also be offered during this summer extended learning period
- Discussed how students needing intervention will be identified.

- Using ESSR funds to pay for summer learning.

4) Other Items

- Does the writing pilot align with older grades? A: Priority of the pilot was to get K-4 structured. Next steps will be to align the elementary writing with older grades. Focus will be to align grades 3, 4, 5, and 6th.
- Looking to start the same process in math as well as what is happening in ELA.
- TMS is currently screening for a middle school counselor position.
- Next meeting: April 20th at 1:30 pm