**Academics Committee Meeting**

**November 2023**

**Highlights**

* Professional Development on unit planning has begun for IB MYP Implementation. The IHSNO academic team is on track for a 3rd quarter of implementation.
* The IB diploma and course selection candidates will be registered for the May 2024 examinations by November 15, 2023. There will be a total of 22 candidates registered for the exams.
* Individual Graduation Plans were completed on October 30th for all grade levels by an independent contracted company.

**Academics**

* All staff evaluations for the 2022-2023 school year have been completed, teacher scores ranged from 1.7 to 3.5. Academic leadership started daily observations with timely feedback to identify strengths and areas of improvement and offer coaching and support for teachers to improve their instructional practices.
* Human Resources: We filled the positions for ELL and Quest for Success. We have a recent resignation letter from the ELA teacher and Special Education Coordinator. We are actively recruiting to fill these positions.
* IHSNO is working with a School Improvement Support Specialist (SISS) with LDOE’s Office of Teaching and Learning to provide differentiated and targeted support to our Math Department. The goal is to improve the use of Tier 1 recommended curricula in all math classes. We have conducted two walkthroughs and discussed areas of strength and growth with math teachers. The main goal is that teachers use the adopted curriculum as prescribed.
* MYP Candidate school status continues with planning meetings and developing a timeline and implementation plan for personal projects for sophomores. IB Coordinator conducted a workshop for faculty to outline future unit plan expectations and develop model unit plans for courses with department chairs.
* The Fast Forword and Clear Fluency program was purchased for literacy development, and three-fourths of the student body completed their literacy screeners. Test results have shown that students are behind in reading levels, some as low as third grade. Academic Leaders will monitor student usage of the program to verify progress in their literacy skills.
* Juniors and seniors participated in ACT the Work Keys assessment on Tuesday, November 14. A total of 168 students were assessed. The assessment measures foundational skills required for success in the workplace and helps measure the workplace skills that can affect job performance.
* The counseling department organized the Mississippi College tour for November 15th and 16th. Forty students will attend the field trip and visit seven different colleges in Mississippi.
* All students participated in Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) meetings with an external provider. IGP meetings are essential to help students develop goal-setting skills, increase motivation to attend school, and increase academic self-efficacy, which leads to better academic achievement. Students will have a second IGP meeting in the spring semester to review goals and ensure they are on track for graduation.

**Culture**

* New teachers and staff attended the Capturing Kids Hearts training this month. This training is designed to begin a multi-year, transformational process. This two-day, immersive, participatory experience gives teachers, staff, and administrators the skills they need to succeed in today’s classrooms.
* In athletics, the girls' volleyball team closed the season in October. We are excited to start the basketball and soccer seasons.
* Students participated in the School Climate Survey for Fall 2023. The survey is in conjunction with the School Climate Transformation Grant to assess IHSNO’s culture and climate. The evaluators will submit survey results this month.
* Students will participate in Spirit Week this week. We will have a pep rally on Friday and a homecoming game in the evening. The Homecoming dance will be this Saturday at the University of New Orleans.

**Events**

* + The first quarter Honor Roll and Perfect Attendance Awards were successful, and students received medals and diplomas. 57 students were on the honor roll: 13 freshmen, nine sophomores, nine juniors, and 26 seniors.
  + Open House was successfully executed on November 1, 2023. There were about ten families in attendance. Several families were from previous high school fairs attended by IHSNO staff.

**Upcoming events**

* November 15-16: Mississippi College Tour - 40 students from different grade levels attended.
* November 13th to November 17th: Spirit Week
* November 17th: Homecoming Game: 5:30 pm at the Dryades YMCA
* November 18th: Homecoming Dance: 8:00 to 11:00 at the UNO Alumni Center
* December 1-5: Fall Leap Testing.
* December 13 -19 Fall Semester Final Exams
* January 3 - 5: Asynchronous days during campus move and classroom setup.
* January TBD: building inauguration day in January—a date to be determined.