



Executive Director Update

March 5th, 2024



School Level Highlights

ES

- Parent Student Conferences (3/11-3/15)
- Love of Reading Week Events

Secondary

- First All Secondary Wish Week Assembly on Thursday, March 29th
- Parent Student Conferences (3/14 and 3/15)

All School

- Wish Week Events (2/29- 3/8)
- 24/25 Master Schedule Creation
- Teacher Offer Letters
- Spring Break (3/18-3/22)
- CMAS Testing

Student Highlights

- MS TSA- Best MS Chapter for the 10th year. Participants take a parliamentary procedure test to qualify for semifinals round. Semifinalists conduct an opening ceremony, items of business, parliamentary actions, and a closing ceremony. They are heading to Nationals.
- TSA - HS/MS - Over a dozen placements at TSA
- Science Olympiad- 2 teams qualified for state and ranked 4th and 6th out of 29 teams
- Andrew Hathaway accepted to the Air Force Academy
- Two National Merit Finalists- Spencer Neucks and Luke Pauka
- Anirudh Rao selected as National STEM Champion in STEM Challenge

Standards Based Learning and Grading Updates

- Confusion and issues related to Mastery Connect and Canvas
 - SBG Working Group is exploring an option that would eliminate the need for Mastery Connect.
- Varying Assignment Weights
 - We will continue with total points for high school grading.
 - Through ongoing coaching and practice, we will begin to determine if weights are needed in the future.
 - 24/25 PD will focus on Backwards Design which will help to determine the possibility of weights in the future.
- Developmental appropriateness concerns for high school students (Intrinsic motivation of student)
- Limited grading options for 3's and 4's
 - Through ongoing coaching, professional development opportunities, PLC work time, and practice, teachers will be able to:
 - Utilize varying assessments with increased opportunities for 3's and 4's
 - Organize and re-prioritize standards to identify what needs to be addressed first
 - Develop PBL units that will inherently differentiate content
- Challenges with students completing learning opportunities
 - Accepting feedback from staff and working on SBL school cohort resources
 - SBG team will research providing feedback on work habits and character traits
- Mental and emotional strain from accumulation of retakes and mastery work
 - Students and parents will have the ability to see grades, both letters and numbers, in one gradebook. This will hopefully lead to more clarity around grading.

The Sandbox

- Grading categories are set up to show average grade breakdowns of each standard category that teachers are using
- All grades (DoKs) are equally weighted and then averaged into a final grade
- The final grade is converted to a letter (students can see the number and letter grade for what they are earning - they do not have to do any calculation to see what they have).
- The way assignments are set up in Canvas has changed. We needed to modify the settings to streamline the process for teachers and students, as well as make sure that we are giving consistent grades for all students and that this works across all subject areas, regardless of a content-based, skills-based, or hybrid course (grounded in standards).
 - Some of these changes are:
 - All assignments need to be point-based
 - Grading scheme is point-based (not percentage based as was the default)
 - Assignment/Grading categories were created to see averages that fit into standards
 - Organization in Canvas courses needs to happen to see how students are submitting assignments and collecting feedback
 - Consistent naming of assignments and submitting things is happening to make sure that there is clarity on assignments.

SBG- Next Steps

- The SBG will meet on Monday to discuss their initial Sandbox feedback and findings with admin and TST Coaches.
- Phase Two participants (students and parents) will be selected to join the Sandbox and use in real time.