

DCS Strategic Plan Work Groups

November Updates

College and Career Readiness:

Members: Donna Barber and Maureen Alger (Co-Facilitators), Lisa Hirt, Ed Ludwig, Jamie Doolittle, Katie Pallotta, Pete Camp, Mary Coolbaugh, Rob Neal, Jamie Mody, Julie Arno

The College and Career Readiness Skills Task Force has been engaged in research which has enabled it to develop a definition of “College and Career Readiness” that is appropriate for DCS. Research is ongoing so that the task force can more specifically articulate those essential skills, behaviors and attitudes identified as part of its definition of College and Career Readiness - the “4 C’s”: critical thinking, communication, collaboration & creativity. Each of these essential skills will be critical to the success of DCS students upon graduation.

English Language Arts (ELA):

Members: Jennifer Ladd and Anna Jarvis (Co-Facilitators), Eric Nash, Jennifer Jones, Marcia Ludwig, Regina Raleigh, Melissa Potratz, Zach Miller, Sheri Smith

The ELA strategic plan work group is continuing to identify core knowledge and skills by grade level. We have designed a format that will allow educators to document instruction and assessment for each standard, as well as make teaching notes when necessary. It will also allow DCS to be consistent across grade levels.

Home, School and Community Partnerships:

Members: Meghan Morgan and Brandi Compton (Co-Facilitators), Pam Walter, Shala Wykstra, Lisa Burbidge, Stacy Inman, Judy Buyea, Dan DeGear, Jessica Zech, Sue Brown

In November, we updated and finalized the cover letter for the survey. We finished editing survey questions. We looked up templates that best fit our survey and completed directions for the survey. We hope to have the survey questions typed and completed next month.

Math:

Amy Prince (Facilitator), Pam Gallerani, Shari Elliott, Linda Ladd, Karen West, Jared Tiffin, Heidi Willcox, Lisa O’Neill, Charles Thornton, Cassidy Richardson, Stephanie Critelli-Locke

The mathematics strategic plan work group has been working on action item 1-2.1 under Key Initiative 1-2. We are identifying core knowledge and skills by grade level. For the month of November, we finished identifying the core knowledge and skills taught in kindergarten. Then we identified the core knowledge and skills taught in first grade. We finished the first grade during the last meeting in November. Then we started to discuss and identify the core knowledge and skills taught in second grade.

For the next meeting (first meeting in December), we plan on continuing the second grade core knowledge and skills. A second grade teacher will be invited to the meeting to help us with this process.

While identifying the core knowledge and skills we are trying to write it in a way that is easy to read and comprehend. We are typing them in an excel spreadsheet so that we use a consistent format for all of the grade levels. We are also focusing on the vocabulary used in different grade levels and will use this knowledge when looking at gaps later on in the strategic plan process.

Social Emotional:

Members: Lisa Stearns and Shannon Forrest (Co-Facilitators), Erin Bartenstein-Brown, Eric Feola, Linda Kelehan, Aleisha Pforter, Molly Hastings, Janet Hathaway, Joe Drake

The Social Emotional Task Force met in the middle school computer lab. We created a survey using Google docs to poll the PK-12 faculty on how they currently address the behavioral/social/emotional needs of our students. Surveys are requested to be back by 12/5 so we can compile the data at our next meeting on 12/8.

Student Engagement:

Members: Erin Young (Facilitator), Karen Nieman, Melissa Wheatley, Rachel Hyde, Dana Cole, Doug Pelton

Our task force worked during the month of November to create a definition of student engagement, which then will drive our measurement and analysis of our current level of student engagement. The definition encompasses three key components, Behavioral Engagement, Cognitive Engagement, and Emotional Engagement. These aspects include student effort and persistence, interest and pride in learning, and sense of belonging to our school, as well as local and global communities. Our task force will be moving towards research of best practices and measurement for student engagement.