

Parent Communications
March 7, 2013

1. Department Highlights

Dr. Sean Impeartrice, Chief Academic Officer; Mr. David Holman, Chief Technology Officer; and Mr. Jim Sumrell, Chief Operations Officer, presented the highlights for their respective departments. Handouts are attached. After each presentation, the group was asked to rank the items in order of what each individual considered most important. This information will be used to help the district better “tell their story”.

2. News and Updates – High School Academies

A Focus video was shown about the College and Career Academies that will begin this fall in each high school. Dr. Worthington presented additional information about each academy and the selection process. Incoming freshmen will be able to apply for an academy. There are seventy-five openings in each academy. The academies and locations are:

Business and Finance @ Clarksville High
STEM Academy @ Kenwood High
Plant and Animal Systems @ Montgomery Central
Computer and Game Programming Technology @ Northeast High
Health Science @ Northwest High
Media Arts and Technology @ Rossvie High
Criminal Justice and Homeland Security @ West Creek High

Dr. Worthington explained that student interest along with regional and national job trend data were considered in determining which academies to put in place. Application to all except STEM Academy will be made on basis of student interest. The STEM Academy also requires specific academic achievement level due to the rigor of the engineering classes. Transportation will be paired between specific schools. Other students will be responsible for their own transportation. Meetings are being held at each location for parents and incoming 9th grade students. Students will be selected for the academies on March 15.

3. Question of the Month Discussion

Parents discussed the response to the question for March and turned in any responses collected at their school in the response boxes. The question was, “How can stakeholder engagement be improved so that stakeholders feel informed and know how they can support student achievement?”

The April question of the month is: “Do the system’s vision, mission, beliefs and strategic work plan reflect the system’s current student needs to improve student achievement? If not, what do you think needs to be considered?”

Instruction Department Highlights-

Winter 2013

Mission: To educate and empower our students to reach their full potential

Vision: Every student graduates college and career ready

Some interesting data I would like to share with you:

1. Graduation Rate of 95.2%
2. Dropout Rate of 1.9%
3. 95.9% Attendance Rate
4. One year achievement and growth scores for grades 3-8 above state expectation targets
5. Focus on STEM implementation in all schools, as evidenced by increased math and science achievement scores for grades 3-12
6. Exemplary status on TCAP Writing Assessment for all assessed grade levels
7. Increase in students meeting college and career readiness benchmarks in all areas of ACT
8. Increase of 112 high school students scoring a 3,4,5 on advanced placement test
9. Professional development district support rated as highly functional (highest rating) by Adanc-Ed Quality Assurance Review Team and rated above the state average by our teachers on Tennessee Tell Survey
10. Total of 6.5 million dollars secured for instruction in grant funds

Technology Department Highlights Winter 2013

The CMCSS Technology Department is responsible for the acquisition, distribution, and maintenance of hardware and network resources; planning, development, and implementation of software resources; and support and instruction for every technology resource in the district.

Some interesting data I would like to share with you:

- 1) PowerSchool, the district's student information system, allows teachers to communicate grade, assignment, and attendance information on a continuous basis to parents and students. PowerSchool makes real-time information available 24 hours a day, taking parent involvement and cooperation to a level which further enhances the students' opportunity for success.
- 2) Each of the district's 2,200 classroom teachers are provided a laptop, assigned specifically to them and used for communication, planning, and personal development. Training and support are made available to assist in optimizing the value of the laptop as an educational tool for the teacher and student.
- 3) The Technology Department has implemented a *model classroom*. This setup consists of a document camera and overhead projector, lanyard microphones for instructional use, and an audio/video system. The model classroom has been found to enhance the learning experience by engaging the student during the presentation of information.
- 4) Each of the district's 37 schools, as well as Central Office, Operations Complex, Greenwood Complex, and the Learning Center, are networked (internet-ready) through wired connection, with all having wireless capability as well.
- 5) The Technology Work Order system collects 10,000 requests over a given year, serving the district's 4,000+ employees. The average time to close a work order is 1.3 days. Work orders can consist of hardware repair, software installation and maintenance, or network issues. These duties are performed in addition to the regular work of the department, which includes regular replacement, maintenance, and improvements to the district resources.
- 6) When necessary, the Technology Department develops in-house software to meet staff or student needs when a third-party software is not economically feasible or does not meet the requirements of the district. One example of this is TestDrive, our benchmark assessment software that recently replaced a commercial option used by the district. The in-house development and support of TestDrive has saved the district \$250,000 annually since its implementation in 2011.

The CMCSS Operations Department

(Student Transportation-Vehicle Maintenance-Facilities Management-Building Maintenance-Custodial Oversight)

The employees of the Operations Department impact Student Achievement by:

- Operating, maintaining, servicing, and cleaning the 36 schools & 3 central office facilities of the District. The District's property has an assessed value of over \$750M and it includes over 5 million square feet of conditioned air space including 1,996 permanent and 63 portable classrooms. Our facilities consume over \$6M in utilities (electricity, gas, water, & sewer) annually to ensure that our students are provided with the best learning environment possible. Our facilities are situated on over 1,000 acres across Montgomery County.
- Our employees also operate, maintain, service, and clean the 300 +/- school buses of the District as well as the 100 +/- white fleet vehicles of the District, and the 30 ambulances of the MCEMS department. The replacement value of the school bus fleet is estimated at over \$22M. The fleet operates over 1184 bus runs that service over 9692 school bus stops each school day. The fleet travels some 18K miles each school day (3.2M miles annually) and consumes over 425K gallons of low sulfur diesel fuel to provide our student passengers with to and from school transportation as well as transportation to extra-curricular activities, sporting, and other events.
- Recent accomplishments of the Operations Department include:
 1. Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certification of the Vehicle Maintenance Department making it "one of a kind" in the State.
 2. Over \$8M in interest savings to the taxpayers of Montgomery County by winning a competitive grant under the American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for the renovation of MCHS.
 3. The District was certified under the Clarksville Montgomery County Green Certification Program because of our commitment to energy efficiency and recycling efforts. We have applied over \$400K in Energy Efficient Schools Initiative (EESI) grants to upgrade the mechanical infrastructure of the District. Our efforts have resulted in a savings of some \$500K and an additional \$1M in cost avoidance since implementing these initiatives.
 4. The Student Transportation Department was one of only five school Districts in the State to be selected by the Tennessee Department of Safety to conduct the annual in-service training for our school bus drivers – a clear testament to the safety record, professional reputation, and capability of our student transportation department.
 5. The fleet as recorded over 27 million miles without a serious injury accident.