

Parent Communications

February 2, 2017

A Parent Communications meeting was held on February 2, 2017, with 29 parent representatives and ambassadors present.

Dr. Worthington, Director of Schools, welcomed the group and briefly commented on the new ESSA plan which was presented at the last parent communications meeting on January 12. Dr. Worthington thanked everyone that participated in the feedback to the state and reported unofficially there were 400 responses and approximately 200 were from our district. The legislation is now involved and the plan must go before the State Department of Education and then on to the State Education Board.

Ms. Emily Vaughn, Curriculum and Instruction Director, spoke with the group regarding a parent's guide to RTI². Ms. Vaughn explained that RTI² (Response to Instruction and Intervention) is a tiered model of instruction to provide academic support to all students. Tier 1, Core Instruction, is a foundation standards aligned instruction for all students. Universal screening (an assessment given 3 times per year as a "temperature check" of student performance) and benchmark assessments which are conducted 3 – 5 times per year determine where students are academically. Tier 2, Targeted Group Intervention, is an intervention for some students at academic or behavioral risk. Progress is monitored bi-monthly for these students. Tier 3, Intensive Intervention, is an intervention for only a few students that happen to fall significantly below grade level and progress is monitored weekly. Data teams (consisting of teachers, administrators, and academic coaches) analyze and discuss student data from the universal screener or other assessments to problem-solve the most efficient instructional strategies aligned to the student's skill deficit (the academic area that is preventing students from accessing grade level content). These teams guide the design, implementation, and adjustment of instruction.

Dr. Bryan Johnson, Chief Academy Officer, presented on the college and career academies. Dr. Johnson stated the CMCSS vision is that all students will graduate college and career ready and will be equipped for success on the post-secondary path of their choice. The Academies at CMCSS are:

	<u>Enrollment</u>	
	<u>2016 – 2017</u>	<u>2015 - 2016</u>
- CHS – Business and Finance	262	199
- KHS – STEM Academy	166	163
- MCHS – Plant and Animal Systems	214	164
- NEHS – Computer and Information Technology	130	104
- NWHS – Health Science	202	156
- RHS - Media Arts and Technology	190	136
- WCHS – Criminal Justice and Homeland Security	237	188

The curriculum and instruction within an academy meet external standards and college entrance requirements, while differing from a regular high school by focusing learning around a theme. Some of the dual enrollment / credit participatory schools are UT Martin, Austin Peay, Nashville State, and TCAT. Certification and career exposure opportunities include work-based learning, mechatronics, nursing and EMS clinicals (CNA and first responder).

Next steps will consist of academy information sessions and registration for incoming 9th graders and continuation of monthly administrator PLCs. We will be expanding internship and certification opportunities for students through work-based learning classes and refining summer camp chances for elementary and middle school students. In addition, work will continue to build community engagement as well as increasing dual enrollment options for juniors and seniors.

Registration timeline: Students will be notified of acceptance to Academies February 8 – 10. On February 13, middle school registration window opens.

The next Parent Communications meeting is scheduled for March 2 in the Boardroom at 11:30 a.m.

Question of the Month - March: Do schools, and the district, share academic goals and achievements with the school community?

If you have comments, please send those to Deb Cummings (deborah.cummings@cmcss.net).

The meeting notes from each month (another useful tool to share with parents and principals) are posted on the CMCSS website under the "Students & Parents" tab.