GARDEN CITY MIDDLE SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL-PTA CURRICULUM MEETING NOTES

<u>January 16, 2020</u>

<u>PLTW and Technology:</u>

1. What is the feedback from 6th and 7th grade students and parents about App Creator?

Formal feedback from students and parents has not yet been ascertained. Focus groups will be formed in the next couple of months. Students will also be surveyed to garner more feedback.

2. Are the Gateway modules ranked to indicate which are more challenging/less challenging? In the future, might it be possible to "accelerate" the module meant for 8th grade to one of the HS level modules?

The Gateway challenges are not ranked. It has not been determined whether another 8th grade course will be added. This is a goal going forward.

3. How often is the technology curriculum reviewed, particularly for consistency with assignments and projects?

The *Project Lead the Way* curriculum is constantly being reviewed in the hopes to expand the program. The general technology curriculum is focused on project-based learning. These projects are consistent across classes.

<u>Writing:</u>

1. Besides the TEES paragraph (SS), what writing practices are used across the curriculum in science and/or math? Which elements of ELA writing curriculum are standardized across each grade level?

Students across all grade levels and core subject areas are writing. They are expected to take a position and support their claim with evidence. For example, in math they must calculate an answer and write how they solved the problem using examples and elaboration.

The Literacy Committee is looking at the writing curriculum continuum especially as it relates to the Next Generation Standards. Parents can access information about writing standards in the various subject areas on the NYS education website. http://www.nysed.gov/next-generation-learning-standards

Assessments for Students Missing Classwork Due to Music:

1. What is the policy regarding assessing students on topics taught in class on a day that a group of students are required to attend a mandatory activity (chorus/band rehearsal)?

Students are responsible for any work missed during mandatory pull-outs such as band/chorus/orchestra.

Band students are scheduled for 5 lessons per quarter, and students have to make 3 (minimum) out of 5 of these lessons. There are makeups.

Chorus students are scheduled for one lesson per month, and make ups are offered.

Orchestra has about 4 lessons per quarter, and they offer make ups. Students can attend with any "like" group.

Teachers are aware of the dates on which groups of students will be missing class for recital practice. Therefore, they can plan accordingly.

Electives and clubs:

1. Has the number of band/orchestra students remained consistent over the years? Is there a drop when students move into MS from 5th grade into 6th?

The number of students participating in band and orchestra has remained constant from year to year. The number of students taking chorus, especially the number of boys, traditionally drops by high school. A goal is to better promote this course in order to address attrition.

German:

1. Are there any additional plans besides continuing to identify a qualified German teacher?

The search for a highly qualified German teacher is underway. There is no alternate plan at this time.

2. How will this impact the 8th grade FLACS exam in June?

The hope is to have a teacher in place soon. As a result, the current situation should not impact the FLACS exam because the exam covers material from 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. If, as we move towards the end of the year and we need to make any changes regarding the exam, we will discuss at that time.

3. How will this affect the Sprachfest Competition? Will GC Middle School be represented?

The goal is to have a teacher in place. Therefore, students should still be able to participate. This will be revisited should a replacement not be found.