

Joint Primary Curriculum Committee Meeting Notes
March 22, 2019

Attendees:

Audrey Bellovin, Hemlock Principal
Suzanne Viscovich, Homestead Principal
Jean Ricotta, Locust Principal
Alison Volpe, Hemlock Representative
Erin Debrich, Hemlock Representative
Kelly Chester, Locust Representative
Maureen Lagarde, SEPTA Representative
Lauren Kennedy, Homestead PTA Director

1. Foundations – Accommodations for different reading levels
 - Parents have asked whether Foundations can be adapted to accommodate advanced readers who may feel frustrated by the slower pace
 - Foundations follows a very specific scope and sequence
 - Like all Wilson programs, everything is done for a very specific reason
 - Every part of the program is meticulously researched and thought out
 - While tapping shorter words may seem tedious for a fluent reader, the skill helps students to ultimately decode longer and harder to read multi-syllabic words
 - Phonics skills are universal and students may apply them at their own level
 - Differentiation comes as the students transfer the skills
 - Although Teacher’s College has their own, newly developed phonics program, the schools will continue to use Foundations
 - All three schools are committed to be consistent in instruction
 - Principals and teachers have figured out where is the most comfortable place in Foundations for all three schools to end so 2nd grade knows exactly where to start
 - All students will therefore enter 2nd grade at the same place
2. Teacher’s College
 - TC will be made to work for us and our children and will be made to fit with our schools’ philosophies
 - TC is not as scripted as Foundations and allows for a little more wiggle room
 - For implementation of TC reading next year, principals are currently looking at all classroom libraries & assessing what teachers have and what they will need
 - All classroom libraries will be labeled differently to fit with TC reading curriculum (all books must be leveled in TC)
 - Likely a project for over the summer
 - TC Writing will not be adapted for about 3 years
 - The topics of study are very similar to our current curriculum, they just come in a different sequence
 - Shift won’t be a large one since the topics are so similar

3. Homework

- Some parents have expressed concern that homework feels repetitive and lacks creativity
- Principals and teachers want homework to be independent
 - Consistent assignments establish a routine
 - Students are better able to work independently when they know what to expect and how to complete their assignments

4. Safety Update

- All doors at all three primary schools are currently alarmed, but the alarms are not yet turned on
 - Each door alarm has its own key to turn the alarm on and off
 - Schools are currently working out exactly who will have the keys and how alarms will be utilized during the day and after school
- Lock down buttons are installed in all three schools (one button in main office and one button by the front doors)
- Strobe lights have been installed