

## Stewart School Curriculum Meeting

Date: November 6, 2019

Representatives: Kelly Chester, Maureen Lagarde, Maureen Manley

### I. Homework

- **What are the expectations for students completing homework at each grade level, and for students who do not, what are considered to be acceptable consequences?**
  - Students are expected to complete ten minutes of homework a night per grade. For example, a fourth grader is responsible for 40 minutes of homework. Homework typically consists of one math sheet and one reading comprehension sheet. Each child is expected to practice math facts and read independently as well.
  - Students who repeatedly miss homework assignments will be asked to stay in the cafeteria to complete the assignment during recess. Once they finish the assignment, they are permitted to go outside. They sit with injured students, so the other students are not aware whether or not a child is injured or staying in to complete homework. This practice varies slightly between teacher. Mrs. Norton plans on communicating with teachers at the next faculty meeting in order to get feedback on the homework consequence.

### II. Independent Reading at Stewart

- **Do students have time to independently read for pleasure in class?**
  - Students read independently in class between 20-30 minutes a day.
- **Does independent reading need to be integrated with the Teachers College reading program? Or, do teachers have a separate classroom library where books are not leveled?**
  - Independent reading is integrated with the Teachers College curriculum.
  - Teachers typically have independent reading books organized into two separate libraries. One library is organized by level so that students can pick their “just right” book, which connects philosophically to Teachers College. The other library is organized by genre.
- **Are teachers looking for independent reading book donations for their classrooms?**
  - New or gently used books are acceptable donations. Popular series and nonfiction books are especially needed.
  - Mrs. Norton also mentioned that the Stewart School very much appreciated the Barnes and Noble Book Day, which was sponsored by the PTA several years ago. The school would be interested in participating in a similar event once again.

### III. Foundations and Teachers College Update

- **How are teachers utilizing the two new programs in their classrooms?**
  - Foundations has been very successful due to the fact that the second graders were so well prepared at the primary level. The school is also very pleased with the TCRWP professional development and resources.
- **Are teachers integrating the existing writing curriculum with TCRWP?**
  - The district plans on fully adopting Teachers College's writing curriculum in the next three-five years. The current writing curriculum has been used for eight years and was modeled after the TC writing workshop, so the writing is currently integrated into the reading curriculum.
  - Students are writing for different purposes across varying genres. In addition, grammar is taught in the classrooms, and teachers use a grammar workbook.
- **Are there opportunities for parents to support TCRWP at home? Does TCRWP provide online resources or pamphlets for parents?**
  - Parents should aim to ask children questions while they read at home with them to support comprehension.
  - In addition to the upcoming Knowledge Cafe, the district is going to upload more information about the objectives and philosophy of TCRWP on the district website.

#### **IV. NWEA**

- Update on new technology and accessibility
  - Reports are now available through School Tool.

#### **V. Safety Update**

- Stewart has completed seven out of nine required drills.

#### **VI. Mrs. Norton's Updates**

- Science units of study are being developed.
- The social studies curriculum is being more closely integrated into the reading curriculum. The school is moving away from the use of social studies textbooks.
- Staff development is dedicated to Teachers College.