

STRATFORD SCHOOL CURRICULUM MEETING

January 8, 2020`

Representatives: Karen Butt, Krista Irwin, Emily Mohsenian

Staff Members present: Mrs. Vota, Mr. Hartigan, Ms. Mustacchio, Mrs. Schaefer, Mrs. Connolly, Mr. Davola

AGENDA

1. TEDEd Club

- Mr. Davola described the start of the new after-school program for 4th and 5th graders. Students attended an informational session on TEDEd back in December. Mr. Davola, along with Mrs. Albig and Mr. Madden, then randomly selected 20 children that had submitted a form to show interest.
- In this club, each student will choose a passion project and for 12 weeks will work on researching it and then will make a TED-style presentation on 4/30. The club will be using a flexible curriculum provided from TEDEd. The hope is that if this pilot is successful, the board will approve it for an actual club for next year.

2. Report Cards

- The report cards the students receive are based on the standards. Mrs. Vota explained that each marking period is stand alone and not cumulative- meaning that a student would not score lower the first marking period and higher on the third as they master the material as some parents had wondered.
- Mrs. Vota also explained that they will not be expanding the grading system to differentiate between a higher or lower 2, for example. She emphasized that a 2 on a report card is not a failure and parents should have an open line of communication with the teacher to get a true reading on how their child is doing. Also, getting a 4 on a report is a special achievement as the student needs to have both an excellent performance on the standard as well as being consistent with that excellence. This is also why a student will rarely get a 4 in the first marking period as consistency over time needs to be shown.

3. Mathletes

- Mr. Messier will be drafting an informative pamphlet on what Mathletes is in the 4th and 5th grades.
- In summary- Mathletes is a 16-week extracurricular program developed as a contest for students who love problem-solving. Each week, the students will get 10 problems to solve and will receive 10 points for each correct answer, and 5 if they ask for assistance. At the end of the year, 5 students in each grade will be given awards for the most points scored.
- At the 5th grade level, there is also the bigger competition of Math Olympiads which competes once per month with other schools.
- This is not a program for extra math support, however teachers are available for questions and there is one question per week that is explained and strategies are taught to the students.

4. Second Grade Science

- In second grade, there are three science units and they are currently being updated according to the new Next Generation science standards. Last summer, a new curriculum was created for a brand new Bio-Diversity unit and new Earth Systems and Structure and Properties of Matter units are to come.

- Being phased out are the Magnetism and Weather units, which were based on old standards.
- Upper grades are also updating the science units based on their Next Generation science standards.

5. Sensory Pathways

- Second grade has a start of a sensory pathway that is utilized by students as needed. The pathway will be added to this summer when the grant money comes in.
- There is also a mindfulness room that students may use and grant money can be used here as well for items that are sensory based.