

Stratford Curriculum Meeting
March 27, 2019
Summary of Meeting

Members Present: Krista Irwin, Marissa Padala and Amy Mueller

Staff Members Present: Mrs. Vota, Mr. Hartigan, Ms. Mustacchio, and Mrs. Connolly

1. Second Grade Spelling

A letter went home in September explaining there would be a change to the spelling program and the reasons for the change. A follow-up letter was sent home in March to continue to develop independence with the spelling rules for the students. Next year, the second grade teachers will be implementing the Foundations Program that is currently used in kindergarten and first grade classes. A trainer from Wilson Language Training will train the teachers with the Foundations program during the year at both Stewart and Stratford Schools.

2. World Language

The world language survey was removed from the sixth grade curriculum 16 years ago. The Language Study Program was found to be ineffective which is why the district adopted using a FLES Program. Spanish was selected as the language for the FLES program due to a community survey. According to Mr. Giacalone the FLES program has improved scores at the secondary level for students in the language program. The Middle School has worked on making adjustments to their incoming 6th grade orientation to discuss the language options. The Middle School website <https://www.gardencity.k12.ny.us/Domain/1052> has information about the language options for parents and students. The Italian and German teachers come to the 5th grade classes in the spring and teach them a lesson. During this visit the students practice using the language for example, by naming body parts while playing Simon Says. This assists in the student making process.

3. August Visiting Day

There is no information yet whether or not teachers will be available in their classrooms for students and parents to visit in August. Superintendent's Conference day is in the planning stage after May.

4. Project Pride

Officer Steve is taking over Project Pride. He practiced the program in the past with the former presenter, Officer Rich. He has had 25 years of service with the department and also has children in elementary school. The content of the program has not changed and will follow the four phases:

Phase I: Peer Pressure

Phase II: Resisting Peer Pressure

Phase III: Drug and Drug Usage

Phase IV: Decision Making

The police department may have a guide to view online that could inform parents of the content of the presentation. The newsletter from the teachers can say when it is beginning. Officer Steve will be the presenter for all of the schools.

5. Transition from First Grade to Second Grade

First grade students come to Stratford in the spring to meet the teachers and students. The students are provided with a tour of the building and visit a second grade classroom. The current second grade students create an "All About Stratford " Book highlighting specific activities the first graders will participate in when they attend the school. The first graders also have chances throughout the year to visit Stratford when they have various assemblies. The principals also visit Homestead and Hemlock schools to meet the students. Additionally, the second grade teachers have articulation with the first grade teachers two times (once before class placement and once during the first week of school). There is a parent night where teachers present what the curriculum. Parents have an opportunity to tour the school with a faculty member. Each year a fifth grader joins the tour to give their perspective. The principals from the Primary and Elementary School review the parent letters as part of the placement process. The Primary Principal makes the final decision about incoming second grade placement. Finally, there is a PTA sponsored ice cream social before school starts for the children to meet each other.