

Stratford Curriculum Meeting Minutes 2/15/2022

Attendees: Christopher Hartigan, Lauren Kaufman, Trina Coviello, Charis Damiano, and Shanna Maier

1. Words Their Way

- It is a grades 3-5 initiative to bridge learning from Foundations in K-2
- Formal training took place in November when all 3-5 teachers attended
- Spelling assessments were administered for finding word parts students know and those that they need help with
- Teachers were able to personalize word lists for individual students
- Kids are responsible for cutting, organizing, and storing their words
- Although it is still in the exploratory phase, there has been great feedback
- It is personalized, engaging, and manageable
- Teachers are seeing immediate growth in spelling and writing
- Students love both the physical and digital components

2. Literacy

- The district's Approach to Literacy and MTSS plan are both located on the district website under curriculum resources:
<https://sites.google.com/gardencity.k12.ny.us/gardencitycurriculumresources/home>
- Both documents are comprehensive and include all the information that drives instruction
- Parents should refer to these documents when they have any questions or concerns about literacy. Both documents are reviewed at least once a year.
- TC and Words Their Way are just primary resources, but our district's literacy instruction is a blend of reader's workshop, word study, shared reading, interactive read aloud, writing workshop, and shared and interactive writing.
- In the Approach to Literacy document, it shows Scarborough's rope, which is a blend of phonics-based instruction and reading comprehension. These components intertwined highlight the core of literacy curriculum.
- The MTSS plan shares the approach to identifying and supporting students that need intervention in reading, math, and behavior.
- It shows what interventions look like and the benchmark criteria
- The behavioral component is still in progress.

3. Update on PBL

- PBL is in an exploratory year
- There are three teachers each piloting one unit
- Classroom teachers make deliberate moves to embed more inquiry-based approaches

- PBL is occurring all throughout Stratford, not just in pilot classrooms
- The elements of PBL are relevant entry and driving question, building knowledge and understanding, development and critique, and presentation to an audience
- Mr. Hartigan and Ms. Kaufman engage in roundtable discussions with the students
- They have found that across the grades students love working in groups
- PBL is a shift in thinking and inquiry-rooted

4. Mathletes and Math Olympiad

- Mathletes is teacher-facilitated, not teacher-instructed
- It is extracurricular
- Materials are used from the national Mathletes program
- The materials are geared towards the national contest
- Differentiation does occur
- Math Olympiad is a national program that is only open to fifth graders that have participated in Mathletes

5. SEL

- Sanford Harmony is used in conjunction with Stratford's four pillars of character and the code of conduct.