

Meeting Notes for Stratford Curriculum Meeting 12/2/2022

Attendees: Mr. Hartigan, Ms. Quezada, Ms. Mustacchio, Charis Damiano, Megan Conlon, Elizabeth Cendan, Anna Surrett

1. Illustrative Math (IM): Mr. Hartigan reports implementation of IM, the new math curriculum, is going strong with full adoption in 2nd grade and multiple pilot classes in the upper grades. It is important for parents to understand that Garden City does not “teach IM.” GC teaches the standards set by NY State and uses the IM curriculum, in addition to other resources, as a tool to teach the standards. Professional development (PD) is an ongoing initiative conducted with IM certified instructors. PD includes co-teaching in the classroom for hands-on experience. Teachers provide parents with regular homework models to help them understand what children are expected to produce in their homework. Other resources, including videos created by the developers of IM, can be found on the district website under the Parents tab and on the Stratford page in “Important News.”
2. Writing curriculum: A comprehensive curriculum map is currently being developed. Writing samples from all students in all grades are being analyzed by faculty as part of the process. Currently, elementary teachers use writing curricula from multiple sources in conjunction with the reading curriculum. Depending on the grade, sources include Teachers College, Foundations, Words Their Way, Grammar Workshop, and curriculum created within GC. An update on writing curriculum development is expected in January. A new writing sample from all students will be collected soon to analyze growth.
3. Clubs at Stratford: Clubs will be announced shortly and they will begin after winter break. The club offering will be largely similar to last year’s offering. This time they may offer a few clubs at a time but offer them frequently.
4. Stratford will implement a Color Guard for students as it ties in with the Four Pillars of Integrity.
5. Math Night: Primary parents were invited to a math day/night in the fall where they learned about IM in an interactive experience. The next math event will be for 2nd grade parents and the dates will be on December 20th.
6. Technology education: The committee agrees students should be educated about cell phone and social media use, considering the high number of elementary students who use cell phones. This initiative has already begun within the classroom and school-wide by mental health staff. For example, social workers are using the “Don’t Press Send” program, a mindful approach to social media. Teachers are encouraged and reminded to follow the practice of “off and away throughout the day” which includes watches. This becomes more complicated to navigate because of the many different types and accessibility for communication. Additionally, the district is working together through the technology department to support the new Computer Science and Digital Fluency Learning Standards which has components regarding appropriate use.
7. Assemblies: The principals are working with the PTA on upcoming assemblies including author visits. It would be ideal to have Amy McCoy visit in April for Autism Awareness.

Mr. Hartigan is open to other authors and ideas and will work with the PTA to create a schedule.

8. Innovation Lab: A projected finish date for the Innovation Lab at Stratford is this coming January (pending heating and tech wiring hookups). The Innovation Lab will be used by all students with either their technology teacher or their classroom teacher. It will include features like 3D printers and flexible seating and will be a helpful space for project based initiatives. Two more spaces have been identified for improvement: the library and the courtyard.