PTA Curriculum Committee Meeting (with Dr. Alice Bowman)

March 25, 2025 5:00-6:30

High School (Small Theater Room)

**MINUTES:**

1. The following High School Curricular Updates were shared:
   1. Keyboarding - *more about tech applications; they already use chromebooks for instruction; encoding is important to retain information; there is no formal class: they come in with whatever skills they have; no handwriting curriculum for students currently in grades 10 and below; they might be able to bring someone in to reinforce; teachers are keeping an eye on students who struggle with handwriting or keyboarding*
   2. Literacy - *science of literacy; getting into how they’re breaking down literacy (see “Literacy in Action at GCHS” document); some concerns over students who didn’t receive certain instruction in the earlier levels; some teacher-specific concerns over consistency*
   3. Digital SAT/ACT Preparedness - *new format; starting this Fall; there are no classes here at GC to prep, however if enough would be interested, they could offer something*
   4. Regents Preparation - *lots of class testing to prepare for Regents; class testing aligns with Regents exams; instruction will always align with NYS standards; parents are concerned it’s too “test forward” - there are discussions about other forms of assessment*
2. The following Middle School Curricular Updates were shared:
   1. Administration change - *Principal* *position has been posted and will be filled by 7/1*
   2. Class Size updates - *TA’s have been introduced in classrooms to help (facilitate break out groups); there will be a change to schedule next year to accommodate next year’s 8th grade class; the accelerated math and science classes are becoming too large so now the grade average minimum will be 92% to enroll*
   3. 6th grade math - *struggle for many students; the gap between elementary and MS is big; report cards are different at the MS level as well; working on more being done at the elementary level to better prepare students for MS math; we will try and look into having a math night at the MS for parents to know how to help their children at home*
   4. *Dr. Bowman shared that storyboarding is in the works to inform parents of what will be covered in the classroom and how parents can help; this includes integrating literacy into other content areas as well as introducing different forms of assessment*
   5. *A suggestion was brought up to look into the Exploratory period in 6th grade as an opportunity for team support, study skills, time management, writing skills, Google Classroom use and understanding (more for executive functioning, not for more instruction)*
3. There were no reps from the Elementary Schools to provide any Curricular Updates
4. The following Primary Schools Curricular Updates were shared:
   1. Decodables - *more books are being added; different books for different purposes (shared, individual, group reading)*
   2. Literacy and Mathematics Night - *April 9 at Hemlock for all primaries; there will be choices of sessions*
   3. Innovative Learning Spaces - *used more (music, science, writing) and still looking for more ways to use them*
   4. Science Curriculum - *At the recent joint primary curriculum meeting, Curriculum coordinators presented on the Mystery Science kits; they are going very well; K-1st Grade is aligned well (spiraling); also incorporates literacy; very hands on; teachers are getting PD and teachers are enjoying it*
5. *Dr. Bowman shared with us some goal ideas for next year which include:*

* *more supports for students as they face transitions (from elementary to MS, from MS to HS)*
* *executive functioning*
* *literacy*
* *social emotional well-being*
* *diversified assessments (weight of facets)*
* *elementary report cards (now through Fall 2025) to make sure they are an accurate communication tool between teachers and parents*