

Curriculum and Instruction Committee Notes  
February 13, 2017

Dr. McGarry, Mr. Goldberg  
Denise Kline, Chung-Yin Cheng Liu, Eileen Briamonte and Lori Ammirati (via phone)

**Coding/Technology:**

Currently the district offers engineering classes and digital citizenship at the HS, Mrs. Dempsey is teaching coding in grades K-3. Mrs. Axelrod is looking at the possibility of offering a coding class to the 6th graders at IH. This would be a class that's offered like their current specials (once a week).

**Voyagers program:**

We are looking at making a different schedule so the students do not miss the same special each week. Mr. Goldberg suggested we have an evening meeting for parents to discuss where we are going with the program. We discussed a program called "Odyssey of the Mind".  
"Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem solving opportunities for students from K through college." Some of our neighboring districts have implemented this program.

**Career Concentration Pathways at HHS:**

Career Concentration- Mr. Loughran, Mr. Swenson, and Mr. Goldberg met on February 15th to discuss the career concentration vision and course selection process.

**Writing Instruction--Grades 7 and 8**

Mr. Goldberg is going to meet with Marilyn Bellis to discuss the current writing program at Satz. The committee discussed some feedback they received from parents about the program.

**Wordly Wise:**

Administration approved some classes in grades K-6 to move away from WW to use the pilot materials from Benchmark Reading that has an integrated program of word study using authentic sources for words to study. A letter was sent home informing parents of those classes.

**Differentiating Instruction:**

This is the theme for most of the PD day on March 17th.

**Assessment:**

As of February 13th, the students were still taking the MAP exam. Everything was going well.

**PARCC:**

The district was required to submit a PARCC Participation Improvement Plan due to lower than acceptable participation, mainly at the high school, last spring. There are a number of aspects to it as listed in the plan you received in your packet.

PARCC testing begins April 17.

**Parent University:**

We have two tentative sessions scheduled for the new “Parent University”.

- 1: Google School
- 2: A screening of *Screenagers*

**Summer Academic Camps:**

Still in the talking stages. We are thinking of purchasing programs/kits for teachers to implement an effective program without needing to design it and construct it him/herself. We are currently looking into the costs.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 21st at 5:00.