

Math & Science Team meeting notes – Nov 5th

1. We discussed general student performance in all classes; Identified particular students who need a more structured plan to succeed academically. 9th Grade, as a whole, is a difficult class behaviorally, which we all agreed. Strategies were identified to assist in keeping students on task and occupied. Students who have challenges completing homework were identified and discussed. Plans need to be implemented about select 7th grade and 10th grade students to ensure homework completion and improvement academically. **OK**

2. Garden Party: We will not implement any games, as we feel we need to direct more of our attention to the needs to older students. There are certain students, especially those who are academically behind, who need tutoring and individual lessons. Saturday is normally utilized to work with specific students, and if we are present at the Garden Party, we will not be able to work directly with students who need that extra support to succeed. As an academic institution, we all feel that our time needs to be utilized working with specific students, to focus on academics as we stress so much. For those of use who will not be working with students, we prefer to be with all the students and ensure everything goes well, and to take a lot of photos of the event to be used for the school website. **OK**

Please identify the teachers who will be assisting students and specify which students. It is also important to build a repor with student's families. The events is all day. It would be preferable after working with students in the morning that the bus take all staff and students in the building over to the event.

3. Blogs: After discussing the blogs, we find that they are not very useful for the upper level. Some teachers are still not using the blogs and choose not to use this option. The first notion discussed was that we are finding that the blogs are not being viewed. If we examine the blog views (the number of views, the dates viewed on) this shows us that parents aren't using it as a resource. We all imagined that if we had children, specifically in upper school, that if I wanted to know what our children were learning in school, I would ask my children. For example, I would ask about homework, things being learned in class, and I would want to see homework or class assignments they are completing. On the opposite spectrum, if I had a concern or question about my child's class, I would speak directly with the teacher. All the parents have our phone numbers and email addresses, and if needed they utilize these! . Parents also frequently make appointments to meet with us at school if a particular concern is coming up. But the blogs are not being utilized by the parents, so the desire to continue them is very low. Personally, within the States, blogs within schools are a trend and are highly useful. Parents in the US are involved in their students academics and performance, but here we find that parents are minimally involved and looking at a blog of their students class is not something valued within this culture. The efforts that we put into the blogs are not reaping benefits simply because parents are not utilizing them. We all think that they can be highly useful for lower school, but upper school involvement from parents is low. Some teachers within the meeting will not create or use a blog for this reason.

Noted. However, blogging is not optional. The administration has been waiting for all blogs to be posted and updated to announce this communicative measure to parents.

Blogs are not only useful to parents, but for the administration to have a glance at what's being accomplished in the classes from week to week. It's also a informs the public about certain aspects of our program as all links are online.

The Lower School has take home class newsletters and blogs. It again is not an option for Upper School teachers to choose to do neither. The better approach is to see how we can get teachers used to this message and then strategize about how to connect our parents. We cannot look at statistics until we at least share with our parents the blog addresses.

4. IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENT: The focus of our conversation was regarding particular students. We can meet as a team, but science has its own "team." I do everything for science, which has little to nothing to do with Math. **What we did benefit from discussing were the students, and we would recommend that "Team Meetings" should happen only once a month. However, once a month we should have an all "Upper School Meeting" and "Lower School Meeting."** Especially with the Upper School team, we all have the same students, only for different classes. But as we discussed certain students today, it is a discussion that we think we should have with all other Upper School teachers, so we can all be "on board" to help each other create better plans to help students academically. If a student is having issues with plagiarism in a particular class, other tea! chers should know about

this too. If a student isn't completing homework, we want to discuss his/her performance with the other teachers who have that student to see if the issues are across the board, in all classes, or just a select few and what we can do to help improve the situation. We would really benefit from a "Upper School" meeting.