

Executive Summary
AS A RESULT OF THE
SMALL GROUP WORK ACTIVITY
SESSION #3 • MAY 15 & 16, 2013

SMALL GROUP WORK ACTIVITY - PROGRAMS OF STUDY -
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AND STUDENT SUCCESS
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSION (CES) #3

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2013 • 7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. • CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2013 • 8:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M. • GRACE CHURCH

ACTIVITY

TASK: PROGRAMS OF STUDY - RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AND STUDENT SUCCESS

Four major blocks of information are provided on a separate sheet in your session packet. The information blocks are as follows:

- Priority “Success Indicators”
- Characteristics of Successful Schools
- Future Demands for Continuous Improvement
- Four Frames for Future Focus

The first block lists the priority “Success Indicators” identified by participants in CES-2. The next three blocks represent a summary of educational research regarding elements for successful schools in the future.

Considering the items in the information blocks and your knowledge of District 203 schools, provide your recommendations regarding new opportunities D203 can utilize to improve Programs of Study by completing the information requested in the matrix for this small group work activity. Your answers will be specific to your group’s level of focus—*elementary, junior high or high school*.

NAPERVILLE 203 - CES-3 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Approximately 200 individuals participated in the May 15 evening (Central High School) and May 16 morning (Grace Church) *Future Focus 203* Community Engagement Session III entitled “Do our Programs of Study prepare students for success?”

After hearing a presentation from Superintendent Dan Bridges and Associate Superintendent for Learning Services, Dr. Jennifer Hester, participants were asked to provide feedback regarding existing programs that should *continue* and/or be *refreshed*, what new programs should be *started* and what existing programs should be *stopped*.

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Here is further definition or explanation of the feedback action categories.

CONTINUE: What programs are doing *well* that we *must continue*?

REFRESH: What existing programs are important but need to be refreshed/modified to optimize their effectiveness?

START: What are we not doing that we should be doing? What programs need to be added to improve our effectiveness and success?

STOP: What are we doing that we should not be doing? On what programs are we expending time, energy and resources that are no longer relevant, or not significantly contributing to school improvement and student success? What do we need to abandon or phase out in lieu of a more effective effort?

In each focus area (elementary, junior high and high school) there were key themes that emerged. Following is a listing of those themes and, for the sake of example, a couple of words or phrases directly from the verbatim documents are provided to support the theme. *For a complete listing of all comments and recommendations from participants see the verbatim documents from the May 15 and 16 sessions.*

FOCUS AREA: ELEMENTARY

In considering existing programs that should be continued and/or refreshed, or new opportunities that should be implemented the responses can be organized into the following categories or themes.

- Gifted/Honors/Enrichment Education
 - “Honors Math Project Idea”
 - “PI+ “ (4-8th grade Gifted Language Arts)
- Intervention/Special Support
 - “LEAP” (grades K-1 reading)
 - “Early Childhood” (early intervention for at risk students)
- Instructional Delivery Methods
 - “Push In Support,” “Differentiated Instruction”
 - “Professional Learning Communities (flexible groups by grade level)”
- Fine Arts
 - “Band/Orchestra outside academic time”
 - “Fine Arts—gives many students new opportunities they would not otherwise have”
- Technology
 - “Update technology to address future needs”
 - “Technology implemented more consistently,” “technology and training”
- Home-School Connection
 - “Home and School/SFCP collaboration”
 - “Making a deeper connection with parents”
- Social-Emotional Curriculum
 - “Empathy social-emotional—encourage these programs, empower teachers”
 - “Nurtured Heart—to the entire school...catches kids doing positive things”

- **Dual Language**
 - “Dual language—increased curriculum support”
 - “Expand Dual Language—consider eligibility for PI for DL students to better meet their needs”
- **Foreign Language**
 - “Expand foreign language—consider different languages (Chinese)”
 - “Foreign language—research shows need to start at an early age”

There was no particular theme or emphasis on existing elementary programs the District should cease though responses did seem to suggest less focus on extensive testing and more attention on designing programs to be flexible to more readily meet the needs of *all* students.

FOCUS AREA: JUNIOR HIGH

These themes or categories seemed to be repeated by participants in each of the “continue, refresh and start” areas.

- **Math/Science**
 - “STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)”
 - “PLTW (Project Lead The Way)”
- **Gifted Education**
 - “PI+ (rationale: rigor)”
 - “Movement from regular to gifted—more flexibility/fluidity in placement decisions”
- **Teams**
 - “Core Teams—can PI+ strategies be co-opted in the on-level classroom”
 - “Team approach to Jr. H. education—kids feel part of a group; helps teachers coordinate individual approach”
- **Technology**
 - “On-Line learning opportunities,” “Tech-need more access to tech learning, incorporate into core classes”
 - “Social Media—understand and educate parents and more knowledgeable on staff levels...”
- **Foreign Language**
 - “FACS/Music/Foreign Language—wide variety of choices,” “split up FACS—don’t choose between Foreign Language and Tech/Arts”
 - “Foreign Language—earlier exposure while still keeping it optional,” “start WCL program earlier”
- **Parent Involvement/Connection**
 - “Parent Involvement—incorporating parents more into the process”
 - “Communicating with parents—parents wanting to know more about their child’s learning/work product”
- **Intervention/Enrichment**
 - “Special Education Services—support for most vulnerable learners”
 - “Enrichment period for extra learning opportunities”
- **Social/Emotional**
 - “Social-emotional learning—create an all-inclusive outlet for families/students to address s-e leaning”
 - “Social-emotional & parent linkage program—look at what issues students are struggling with...”
- **Fine Arts**
 - “Band—not being pulled out from academic classes...”
 - “Music—relook at 6th grade rotation...is it impacting students enough”
- **PE/Sports**
 - “PE—continue everyday PE for high school and middle school; add elementary”
 - “Intramurals—motivates increased diversity of groupings and experiences”
 - “Sports/extra-curricular activities cultures aligned—culture spirit & pride, leadership supports student athletes”

A few random suggestions were listed regarding programs/activities the District could consider “stopping” in the future. The only item repeated by more than one of the small groups was stop serving unhealthy food.

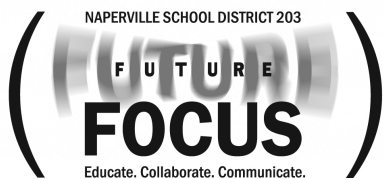
FOCUS AREA: HIGH SCHOOL

While responses regarding “continue, refresh and start” did not result in pronounced themes as they did for the elementary and junior high focus areas, there were some programs/activities that received repeated mention.

- **Fine Arts**
 - “Music Program—needs equal funding as core curriculum”
 - “Music Fine Arts—develop leadership skills both curricular and non-curricular”
- **Team Work**
 - “Team Work—opportunities to collaborate, skills needed to be a resilient teen-adult”
 - “Professional learning & collaboration for teachers time”
- **Parent Involvement/Community Connection**
 - “Engaging parents/community,” “More connection to adults—intentionally connecting adults to kids”
 - “Community release instructional special needs—increase opportunities to develop job skills, community experiences along with academic”
 - “Parent Education & Connection—SFCP programs to teach parents how to help children increase attendance & connect information to all”
- **Rigor/Honors Programs**
 - “Rigor—it preps kids to be college ready,” “AP classes—more advanced knowledge, college ready”
 - “Enhancing Foreign Language—assist students to be prepared for global environment/workplace”
 - “AP course rigor—move to all courses”
- **Technology**
 - “More on-line course offerings,” “on-line independent learning,” “virtual backpack”
 - “Support teachers with technology & integration with instruction”
- **Social-Emotional**
 - “Start earlier for students...students can’t succeed at college because emotions...”
 - “Social-Emotional learning—the whole person matters...teach resiliency”

When asked to list activities/programs that should be stopped at the high school level a couple of items received repeated mention by the groups—DES Science and a silo approach to education.

***For a complete listing of all responses see the
May 15 & 16, 2013 CES-3 Verbatim Response Documents***



Verbatim Response Document
SMALL GROUP WORK ACTIVITY
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSION #3
WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2013

ACTIVITY

VERBATIM RESPONSES

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(Continued Next Page)

FOCUS AREA: ELEMENTARY

ACTION: CONTINUE - What programs are doing *well* that we *must* continue? Include rationale for why this it is such a vital and successful program.

TABLE #	ELEMENTARY CONTINUE	
	PROGRAM	RATIONALE
#5	Integrated Learning	Combining subject areas to truly reflect mission/ future demands
	Push in Support	Meeting kids where they are so they have access to core curriculum
	Professional Learning Communities Flexible Groups by grade level	To more effectively meet the varying needs of students
	Honors Math Project Idea	Refresh too to provide opportunities to students for written expression and true balanced literacy (ECSS)
	Band Orchestra outside academic time	Too much instruction lost and students feel they are falling behind
TABLE # 7	Update Technology to address future needs	
TABLE # 4	Honors Math and Project Idea	Enables the classroom teachers to focus on other students and gives some students the opportunity to be challenged / additional knowledge
	LEAP	It has been effective in teaching students how to be good readers in the long term
	Early Childhood	Allows for early intervention for students who are at risk
#8	Reading Support	Most schools base teacher support on individual needs of students.
#3	No Response	
#2	PI +	Learn something new with peer groups in a challenging manner
	Dual Language	Asset for children especially as community diversifies
	Differentiated Instruction	Continue to provide leveled grouping for instruction at their levels.

TABLE #	<i>ELEMENTARY</i> CONTINUE RATIONALE	
	PROGRAM	
#1	Technology	Continue and keep up to date with new tech opportunities
	Update of Math & Literacy	Matching with CCSS
	Fine Arts!	This gives many students new opportunities that they would not otherwise have
	Projects and collaboration among all students	Gives them a chance to work together & create a final product!
#10	Home and School / SFCP collaboration	Supportive parents are essential to a successful school

FOCUS AREA: ELEMENTARY

ACTION: REFRESH - What existing programs are important but need to be refreshed/modified to optimize their effectiveness? Include your rationale and suggestions for refreshing the program.

TABLE #	ELEMENTARY	
	PROGRAM	REFRESH RATIONALE
#5	Co-teaching push in support	Keep growing with this model
	Professional Learning communities Flexible grouping by grade level	
	Dual Language	Increased curriculum support
	LEAP	Possibly stop as pull out – refresh model
	Enrichment	Push In? or is this the responsibility of classroom teacher to enrich all students
	Special Education	Look at best practice and how to support children w/ ccss
	Social Emotional	District based initiative support for at risk kids w/ mental health needs
#7	LEAP	Leap in its current form hasn't changed in 20 + years. It s/b revisited to ensure that it's as effective as it should be.
	PI	Has not evolved significantly in many years.
	Band/ Orchestra	Scheduling & structure s/b refreshed so that it doesn't interrupt instruction
	Special Ed / RTI Model	Expanding needs of students
#4	PI +	We are wondering how we could refresh the program in a way that addresses the needs of the whole child (i.e. social / emotional Consider 3 rd grade as entry point
	Band / Orchestra	Is there a way to give them that experience without pulling them out of instruction? After School?
	Reading Support	Provide more “push in” support by supporting students in the classroom
#8	LEAP	Operating on an old school model – focus should continue on reading but support SEL needs / behavior needs of students (so not to exclude because of these reasons)
	PI / HM	Criteria does not reflect the whole child – too

TABLE #	ELEMENTARY REFRESH	
	PROGRAM	RATIONALE
		much value on one score
	ELL	Support is needed for students who exit ELL and /or parents refuse services.
	Enrichment	Subjective. Should be integrated for students to function in LRE
	Dual Language	Consider eligibility for PI for Dual Language students to better meet their needs.
#3	Reading Support	To increase consistency across the district Entering and exiting criteria Are there better ways to provide the support? Defining the purpose
	Special Education	Increase the accessibility of rigorous curriculum Innovative delivery models Scaffolding & skill progression tied to CCSS
	ELL	Look at delivery models Modeling and coaching for classroom teachers Remove the language barriers to demonstrating ability / knowledge
	Honors Math & PI We are wondering why HM begins in 3 rd grade and PI begins in 4 th grade?	Identification criteria Entrance assessment – are they necessary for all students? All Tests? What curriculum resources will best support learning?
	PI +	Is this the best way to meet the needs of these students?
#2	Tech implemented more consistently	A class at a grade level may use it daily and another may not.
	Professional Development	Collaborative, action time to process learning
	Enrichment Assistant	One per building viewed in some schools as a track for gifted programs.
	Consistency of programs, technology and training	
#1	Oral / Speaking skills	Life skill, person to person communication
	Enrichment Programs	All subject areas are in need of this opportunity with current resources And done within each classroom
	Collaboration across district with programming and additional opportunities	

TABLE #	ELEMENTARY REFRESH	
	PROGRAM	RATIONALE
	for student population And consistency across elementary schools.	
#10	Making a deeper connection with parents	All the same parents show up at H & S and SFCP events.
	Enrichment and Special Ed	We need to look at the needs of students and look at the most effective way to deliver instruction.
	Cursive Handwriting	A lot of time is spent on cursive in second grade then students do not use. By 5 th they have forgotten the letters.
	Spelling	Students study 20 words if they know them it is wasting their time, if they don't get them, the class moves on.
	STEM	

FOCUS AREA: ELEMENTARY

ACTION: START - What are we not doing that we should be doing? What programs need to be added to improve our effectiveness and success? Include rationale for the recommendation.

TABLE #	ELEMENTARY	
	PROGRAM	START RATIONALE
#5	Co-teaching push in support	Not to leave classroom but still have needs met – sense of belonging
	Early childhood for all	Catch it early
	Foreign Language instruction	Elementary students are most available to learning a 2 nd language
	Math Support	Push in/ pull out Provide opportunities for math support within school day
	PE based on fitness	Personalized goal based fitness teaching life long fitness
	.5 kdg for majority	Research shows that full day is more effective
#7	Flexible model in classroom foreign language	
	Daily P.E.	Healthy lifestyle
	All schools have ADK	Consistency among schools to prepare students for future success
	Math specialists	To help struggling
	Extended School day	Allow for flexibility to best meet student & parent needs
	Collaborative plan time for teachers	
	Reggio Emilia approach	Student driven curriculum w/ high interest
	Social / emotional curriculum	To ensure explicit & intentional delivery
	School readiness	Level the playing for all students
#4	Online Learning	Within the school day, provide online learning opportunities with supervision and direct instruction on responsible use.
#8	Math Intervention	Prior to 3 rd grade, students need to receive early math support / intervention (similar to reading support) across all 14 elementary schools
	Language Program	To prepare students for global society – options for languages

TABLE #	ELEMENTARY START	
	PROGRAM	RATIONALE
	Snack Program	Consistency of free snacks among all students and schools
#3	Expand Dual Language	Consider different languages (Chinese) Look at supports provided to students Differentiation within classroom to meet wide range of needs.
#2	PI + and Dual Language	That students / families must choose between the two programs.
	Consistent Implementation of curriculum content / ideas.	Create methods for these conversations to occur
	Scheduling	Relook at scheduling and methods to carve time for teachers to do the above
	Outreach & guidance for families with learning extensions to support learning	Some families feel not enough homework while others feel there is too much. How do we balance this?
	Achievement Gaps / inclusion Interventions	Look at new ways to close gaps
#1	Additional after school programs for your “average” student in any subject areas	Many programs are developed and run for the struggling learner or the gifted, not the “average” students.
	Breakfast & weekend food programs	With changing demographics and the increase in % low income, this support is needed.
#10	Foreign Language	Research shows they need to start at an early age
	Providing Learning Activities for all gifted talents	Students gifted in science or Art – no programs for these students
	Math Intervention	Start at early age

FOCUS AREA: ELEMENTARY

ACTION: STOP - What are we doing that we should not be doing? On what programs are we expending time, energy and resources that are no longer relevant, or not significantly contributing to school improvement and student success? What do we need to abandon or phase out in lieu of a more effective effort? Include your rationale for this recommendation.

TABLE #	<i>ELEMENTARY</i>	
	PROGRAM	STOP RATIONALE
#5	Report Cards	Re-examine what/how we want to report to parents
	Science/ SS as separated (isolated) subjects	Integrate instruction possibly
	Excessive testing	Too much Instruction time is lost and the data found is not reliable/ being used to help foster student needs
#7	Running Schools in traditional forms	
#4	<i>No Response</i>	
#8	<i>No Response</i>	
#3	<i>No Response</i>	
#2	School Calendar	Some months especially March is so choppy. How can scheduling be more consistent? Do we need a longer year?
#1	<i>No Response</i>	
#10	½ day kindergarten	
	Excessive testing	Move toward more formative assessment to meet needs

FOCUS AREA: JR. HIGH

ACTION: CONTINUE - What programs are doing *well* that we *must* continue? Include rationale for why this it is such a vital and successful program.

TABLE #	JR. HIGH CONTINUE	
	PROGRAM	RATIONALE
#12	PI +	Rigor
	P.E	Continue everyday PE for high school and middle school; add elementary
	Strategic Math and Reading	Expand the opportunity
#11	Continue ELL Programming	New families come to 203 with language needs
	Daily PE programming	Physical learning addresses stress, self esteem, academics
	Special Education Services	Support for most vulnerable learners
	Orientate students to inquisition process in science	
#15	Strategic Reading Reading intervention programs	Flexible entrance / exit
	PI +	Needs met
#13	Co-Curricular Programming	Nourish interests beyond the classroom
	Intramurals	Motivates increased diversity of groupings and experiences
	PI + program	The program serves a particular population in a way they need

FOCUS AREA: JR. HIGH

ACTION: REFRESH - What existing programs are important but need to be refreshed/modified to optimize their effectiveness? Include your rationale and suggestions for refreshing the program.

TABLE #	JR. HIGH	
	PROGRAM	REFRESH RATIONALE
#12	Band	Not being pulled from academic classes Maybe make it an exploratory class
	Music	Relook at the 6 th grade rotation. Is it impacting students enough
	PI	Is the criteria to get in and stay in valid? Is the curriculum rigorous enough?
	Science	Increase rigor Continue with physical labs (not virtual)
#11	Start WCL program earlier	
	Strategic read Strategic math	
	Re-examine WCL offerings	
	Apply math as a language principle to curriculum	
	Greater integration of math and science	
#15	Math Intervention	Offering approaches to accommodate gaps
	Movement from regular to gifted	More flexibility / fluidity in placement decisions (time, tests used)
	PI +	Refresh curriculum
	Music Pull out	Not during sup study that is needed for flexible instruction
	More flexible entry into interventions or enrichment programs	
#13	Core Teams	Can PI + strategies be co-opted in the on –level classroom

FOCUS AREA: JR. HIGH

ACTION: START - What are we not doing that we should be doing? What programs need to be added to improve our effectiveness and success? Include rationale for the recommendation.

TABLE #	<i>JR. HIGH</i> START	
	PROGRAM	RATIONALE
#12	Foreign Language	Earlier exposure while still keeping it optional
	Social Emotional	Need to address students social and emotional needs
	P.E. Lab	Mixture of social emotional and a student access lab
	Alternate "school"	Placement and curriculum for at risk students for social emotional and behavior (not together) in house or out of house
#11	Offer on-line learning opportunities	Would help address unique learning or social emotional needs
	STEM	
	Offer WCL & PLTW concurrently	
	A system to address acceleration in math	
	Flexibility in determining dates and times - calendar	
	Program to address cultural diversity	
	Promote debate program	
#15	Balance academic extra-curricular with athletic	Grant with corporate corridor
	Technology	Go beyond product Use as vehicle of communication
	Mechanics of writing	Need for basic skills of a literate person (even in PI)
	Bussing for after school programs	Extend day for extra tutoring
	Activity Bus	To foster extra -curricular opportunities
	Enrichment period	For extra learning opportunities

TABLE #	<i>JR. HIGH</i> START RATIONALE	
	PROGRAM	
#13	Honors programs in science (& history)	Serves students at level of rigor they desire
	Longer school day	We recognize it is not a program, but it makes possible broader thinking about programs

FOCUS AREA: JR. HIGH

ACTION: STOP - What are we doing that we should not be doing? On what programs are we expending time, energy and resources that are no longer relevant, or not significantly contributing to school improvement and student success? What do we need to abandon or phase out in lieu of a more effective effort? Include your rationale for this recommendation.

TABLE #	JR. HIGH STOP	
	PROGRAM	RATIONALE
#12	FACS	It is available at the high school and it is not the best use of middle school day
#11	½ day Institutes	Impact on learning in the day and burden for families
#15	<i>No Response</i>	
#13	Dual Language Program Adoption at Junior High	Major concern over the segregation of the students

FOCUS AREA: HIGH SCHOOL

ACTION: CONTINUE - What programs are doing *well* that we *must* continue? Include rationale for why this it is such a vital and successful program.

TABLE #	HIGH SCHOOL CONTINUE	
	PROGRAM	RATIONALE
#21	Music Program	Not just based on skill but on achievement & growth. Needs equal funding as core curriculum
	Extra Curricular	Value to socio – emotional growth. Many live lessons learned outside of classroom
#23	Adoptive PE	Opportunities for students w / needs integrated with reg ed students
	Opportunities to collaborate – team work	Skills needed to be a resilient teen – adult
	Engaging parents / community	
	Rigor	It preps kids to be college ready
	Creative Elective Course	Provide course for right-brain thinkers
#19	Coach Iverson coaching program	Wonderful mentorship about life
	Consumer Ed	
	Late Arrival	
#18	Honors program AP classes	More advanced knowledge and college course curriculum ready
	Variety for growth (programs)	Administration is involved in student readiness growth
	Extra Curriculars	Something for everyone

FOCUS AREA: HIGH SCHOOL

ACTION: REFRESH - What existing programs are important but need to be refreshed/modified to optimize their effectiveness? Include your rationale and suggestions for refreshing the program.

TABLE #	HIGH SCHOOL REFRESH	
	PROGRAM	RATIONALE
#21	Math	Make sure all get common core basis so there aren't gaps
	Counselor Guidance	Much more personal to give students direction for a variety of college experiences
	Consumer Education	Possible to other levels – Jr. high or incorporated into other class – math
	Cultural ideas of curriculum	Remove stigma "I can't do math". We all have the opportunity to learn in all areas.
#23	Opportunities for public speaking	21 st Century skills – speaking face to face
	Professional Development Support	
	Social Emotional learning	The whole person matters teach resiliency
	Support Programs	Have high rigor and high help
#19	FMP/FYI	
	Honors chem./ DES as freshmen options for science	
	PE	
	NHS	Criteria for getting into NHS
	Coaching philosophy	All coaches should be focused on individual development
#18	Enhancing foreign language (rigor)	Assist students to be prepared for global environment - workplace
	Parents paying for private tutoring for math and science	Provide the supports in creative way

FOCUS AREA: HIGH SCHOOL

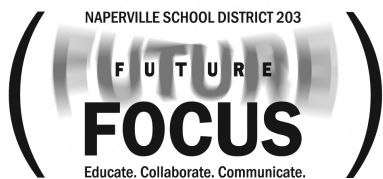
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TABLE #	HIGH SCHOOL	
	PROGRAM	START RATIONALE
#21	Zero Hour	To offer students the opportunity to have more exploratory
	Cursive Writing	Although this may be an elementary level – will be needed for college exams and be able to read.
	More on-line course options	From within District to keep the standard & still have teacher contact. Work & college prep.
#23	Mentorship / networking	
	Graduate tracking	Let's see the data on students post grade 12. How successful are our graduates?
	Common Core instruction	Teach the triangle text, visual literacy predict, summarize and infer
#19	More leadership opportunities for all students	
	More connection to adults	Intentionally connecting adults to kids
	Mentorship between upper / lower classmen for all students in the schools	
	More opportunities for recognition awards (all inclusive)	
#18	Year round school	Core curriculum year round
	Core curricular credits only for graduation	
	Real life application embedded in common core	
	Utilizing resources like COD & other area colleges	

FOCUS AREA: HIGH SCHOOL

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TABLE #	HIGH SCHOOL	
	PROGRAM	STOP RATIONALE
#21	DES Science	Not a lab course so colleges do not recognize as a science
#23	Trying to do or have it all	Students can't do it all so don't try! Social emotional matters?
#19	DES / honors chem. As the only freshmen option	
	Making it difficult to move to honors programs	
	Recognizing the same kids	
	Homework over long weekends / breaks Tests on first day back after long weekend	
#18	4 year PE	Students can make progress through extra curricular
	All students having to take the same requirement for graduation (Alg 1)	All students do not need this



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FOCUS AREA: ELEMENTARY

ACTION: CONTINUE - What programs are doing *well* that we *must* continue? Include rationale for why this it is such a vital and successful program.

TABLE #	ELEMENTARY	
	PROGRAM	CONTINUE RATIONALE
#2	Performance Series	Need out of level testing to truly show student performance
	Opportunity every year to qualify for gifted programs	
	Provide reading support	Some support has been removed due to finances and building constraints
	Band / Orchestra	Access to fine arts
	Communication classes / opportunities	At all levels and in all aspects of their lives the children will have to have the ability to communicate – including public speaking
	P.E. Wellness	
#5	Empathy social emotional	Encourage these programs Empower teachers
	Physical education	Fabulous before school activities good
	Teaching skills	Teaching kids to know why the answer is what it is.
	OT, speech prescreening services	Evaluations are helpful
	Art, music, out of box projects	Very exciting & stimulating for students and parents
#4	Dual Language	Business world becoming global. Preparing them for tomorrows diverse world “Diversity empowers our students for success”
	Nurtured Heart	Positive tone to the entire school – catches kids doing positive things
#3	PI project idea (gifted language arts)	Challenges and encourages
	Music / art wellness PE social emotional curriculum	Whole child focused

TABLE #	<i>ELEMENTARY</i> CONTINUE	
	PROGRAM	RATIONALE
#1	LEAP	Excellent to catch struggling readers early!
	Honors Math	Nice challenges for needy kids
	PI / PI +	Nice challenges for needy kids
	Fine Arts	KEEP!!!
	Opportunity	Great wide –range sampling of course offerings to reach many talents / interests

FOCUS AREA: ELEMENTARY

ACTION: REFRESH - What existing programs are important but need to be refreshed/modified to optimize their effectiveness? Include your rationale and suggestions for refreshing the program.

TABLE #	<i>ELEMENTARY</i> REFRESH	
	PROGRAM	RATIONALE
#2	Enrichment for upper grades – improve consistency and effectiveness	Provide challenge for students who just miss gifted program
	Enrichment for lower grades – improve consistency and effectiveness	Challenge for students before gifted program begins
	Identify challenges and differentiation for every student	
	Dual Language	Are Spanish speakers becoming proficient in English which should be a primary goal?
#5	Gifted	Consistency of curriculum Kids just below who don't quite make it, but are bored where they are
	Entry to honors program qualifications	Better inform parents of entry process Use multiple measures
	Naming of honors program	Multiple layers
	Individual focus on kids	Differentiate in spectrum
	Parent volunteers	New uses, skills, opportunities
	Consistency of curriculum	Are all children coming out meeting equal knowledge & assessment standards?
#4	PI	Coming in to the program there is diversity of knowledge. More differentiation with instruction to meet the needs of all PI kids. Refresh standards high standards to keep program high less homework at home Use less paperwork
	Honors Math	Like the program amount of homework too much!
	Reading support	LEAP too packaged of a program – more individualization of program for individual students better assessment

TABLE #	ELEMENTARY REFRESH	
	PROGRAM	RATIONALE
#3	Enrichment	To expand it and offer to more students; increase staff Improve communication with parents regarding the program
	Honors Math PI	Reassess how children are placed into these – whole child assessment vs. strong emphasis on test scores (rigidity)
	Technology	Increased individualization
	Science / social studies STEM	Increase instruction deeper / critical vs. factual thinking
	Chess Club	Expand session availability
	Dual Language	Access to all
#1	LEAP	Provide continues support after “success goal” is reached
	Honors Math	Identify earlier
	PI	Identify earlier
	Kindergarten program	Not challenging enough for particular kids
	Meeting individual needs	Make sure to reach all students and push their growth

FOCUS AREA: ELEMENTARY

ACTION: START - What are we not doing that we should be doing? What programs need to be added to improve our effectiveness and success? Include rationale for the recommendation.

TABLE #	ELEMENTARY	
	PROGRAM	START RATIONALE
#2	Flexible grouping across grade levels and spectrum of learning	
	Strong focus on grammar/ vocabulary earlier	
	Foreign language for all earlier	
	Study skills / time management / stress management	Life skill emphasis
	STEM – introduce earlier	
	Addressing learners who lack home connection	
	Experiential learning	
#5	Start paying attention to introvert, extrovert. Birth order in a child's background	
	Testing for autism	Teachers should “get” each student awareness of social development of child
	Communicating with parents when a child is placed in enrichment	
	Honors COGAT	Testing at end of 2 nd grade
	Use Technology	To enhance differentiated instruction
	Suggesting summer work	To parents so they can work together preparing student for next year Parent teacher conference at end of year
	0 – 3 years	Give every newborn (parent) a packet of how to educate 0 - 3

TABLE #	ELEMENTARY START	
	PROGRAM	RATIONALE
#4	Academic support for all disciplines in non instructional hours (before or after)	Especially math
#3	Foreign Language (Spanish, Latin, Chinese, etc.) starting at elementary level	2 nd language fluency access to dual language for all
	Environmental specific studies	Access and success for all
	LEAP	Increased availability of 1:1 instruction and / or small group instruction for average students
	Start discussions for longer days (& year round school)	
#1	Writing	Support for strugglers, more specific curriculum for all
	Math support	Provide math support for struggling students (i.e. LEAP for math)
	Regrouping kids to meet needs better	Keep fluid based on specific skill sets / needs – do district wide
	Computer – assisted learning (?)	Performance assessment – go as far as you can @ your own pace.
	Transition preparation	From elementary to junior high and junior high to high school Changes in responsibility expectations.
	Use master teachers more to encourage other “good / great” teachers	
	Better Lunch service	There are other options available with healthier food choices. Please look into!!

FOCUS AREA: ELEMENTARY

ACTION: STOP - What are we doing that we should not be doing? On what programs are we expending time, energy and resources that are no longer relevant, or not significantly contributing to school improvement and student success? What do we need to abandon or phase out in lieu of a more effective effort? Include your rationale for this recommendation.

TABLE #	ELEMENTARY	
	PROGRAM	STOP RATIONALE
#2	Artificial limits / ceilings for learning	
#5	Teaching to a common denominator	
	Principals not using volunteers	Exclusion of volunteers rather redirect
	Taking every single Friday off in March	A waste
	Assumptions on ELL	Multi-lingual may not mean English isn't 1 st language
	The unions	Evaluate people based on their performance
	Teaching to the test	
#4	Teaching scientific method wrong	Scientific method should be taught more rigorously without answer given at the beginning
#3	No Response	
#1	No Response	

FOCUS AREA: JR. HIGH

ACTION: CONTINUE - What programs are doing *well* that we *must* continue? Include rationale for why this it is such a vital and successful program.

TABLE #	JR. HIGH CONTINUE	
	PROGRAM	RATIONALE
#15	Infinite Campus	Gives great guide posts except when not being used. Accountability
	FACS / Music / Foreign Language	Like that they have the wide variety and opportunity for choice
#10	Honors Math	Right level for kids
	Strategic math & reading	Important foundation (needed for high school)
	PI +	Needed by higher achieving kids. More parent input. Re-evaluate entrance into (apply first, then check tests & parent input)
	Summer School	L(look like college courses, little more fun & smaller time offerings?
#9	Team approach to Jr. High education	Kids feel part of a group. Helps teachers coordinate individual approach. Helpful / beneficial to students. Opinion of a parent who moved from GA – was experienced with Jr. High in another location.
	PI + program	Tow parents of PI + students spoke very highly of program which challenges the gifted.
	Project Lead the Way	Strong, innovative program, introduces technology
	PE	Sometimes in danger of being discontinued to make room for other programs. All but one parent would NOT like to see this happen.
	Support those with extra educational needs	
#8	New Math Curriculum	Students are able to integrate their knowledge to everyday tasks.
	Honors Math	Allows students to become more challenged

TABLE #	JR. HIGH CONTINUE	
	PROGRAM	RATIONALE
#7	"Inter – Disciplinary Teams"	Collaborative teaching Successful at Madison & Jefferson not at Kennedy and Washington Keep "best practices" if you are truly collaborating across the subjects
	On-Line Collaboration	Example - literature assignment (blog) on campus – kids met at various Junior High – was positive for most Example – could offer on-line language course for all junior high with one teacher (resource issue sharing)
	Campus Portal	

FOCUS AREA: JR. HIGH

ACTION: REFRESH - What existing programs are important but need to be refreshed/modified to optimize their effectiveness? Include your rationale and suggestions for refreshing the program.

TABLE #	JR. HIGH REFRESH	
	PROGRAM	RATIONALE
#15	Literacy grammar / writing	Need synergy from elementary to high schools need more writing instruction Wasted years Too easy – are they as challenging as they should be
	Sports / extra- curricular activities cultures aligned	Culture spirit & pride leadership that support the student athletes
	Culture of school	All kids excited to be involved
	Enrichment opportunities	More kids in these as “in between” PI & lower levels
#10	Reading	Need differentiation to meet individual needs allowing for personal growth
	Math	Raise the bar for all & more differentiation. Middle math track taught @ Jr. High
	PI / PI +	Higher level learning program Have it at each school Selection process should be reviewed.
	Higher Expectations	More consistency among teams (among teachers workload for kids) and how kids are progressing
	Organization & test taking from counselors	Much needed for some student.
#9	Placement of Honors Math, PI, and PI +	Important to individualize placement through testing & teacher input. Need to ensure we are testing innate intelligence and students aren't able to be “tutored” into program. Visit – is process flawed? Are qualified students adequately identified both on high end and low.
	FACS vs. Foreign Language	Group would like to see students have the opportunity to experience both of these important programs.
	Science Program	Important to inspire students about science at Jr. High level.

TABLE #	JR. HIGH REFRESH	
	PROGRAM	RATIONALE
#8	Science Curriculum & Language Curriculum	Refresh so kids are more challenged
	Parent Involvement	Incorporating parents more into the process. Penetrate the teacher variable. Communication between parents / teacher
	Communication with parents	Parents wanting to know more about their child's learning / work product. Maybe not more information but rather different forms of communication
	Social Emotional Learning	Needs to be increased in the school (see start action)
#7	Language programs	Dual language (continuity? Successful?) current offerings in 7 th & 8 th grade excludes students from applied arts and sciences
	Applied Arts & Sciences	Not available to all students in 7 th & 8 th grade
	"Best practices"	Teaching practices are generally great in PI classes. Can they be integrated in the "regular" classes across the curriculum?

FOCUS AREA: JR. HIGH

ACTION: START - What are we not doing that we should be doing? What programs need to be added to improve our effectiveness and success? Include rationale for the recommendation.

TABLE #	JR. HIGH START	
	PROGRAM	RATIONALE
#15	Communication	Teams systematically / consistently sharing info regularly & keeping parents in the loop. Including season sports
	Social Media Technology	Understand and educate parents while being more knowledgeable on the staff levels. Social media used for kids / parents to disseminate info. Model positive use. Highlighting kids accomplishments via social media & building relevance
	Academic Teams	How do you make these strong as each other making them more accountable for teacher engagement
#10	Tech	Need more access to tech learning Incorporate into core classes
	Split up FACS	Tech vs. Arts Don't choose between Foreign Language & Tech or Arts
	Teachers being consistently educated in technology	
	Outside enrichment	Either throughout the year.
	Concentrate on kids in the Middle	We feel there needs to be a greater concentration on kids in the middle (high average). They need to be instructed & helped just as much and may put them into the PI / Honors category. There needs to be greater understanding of what it takes to get into PI +.
#9	Additional Dual Language Programs	To be fair to all foreign language students.
	Study of a foreign language earlier	Studies showing that when children are introduced to a foreign language before the age of 13 Elementary introduction is shown to be most effective as well as affordable and beneficial Other schools start at Pre-K and find mind is more open to learning.

TABLE #	JR. HIGH START	
	PROGRAM	RATIONALE
	Longer School year	
	Socio – Emotional	Allows students to have stability
#8	Inquiry based learning	Utilizing it at IMSA
	Extra- curricular academic opportunities	Too focused on sports – book club, yoga, arts
	Social Emotional & Parent linkage program	Looking at what issues our students are struggling with currently. Wrap around services for school & home
#7	Lengthen School Day	Question: If you lengthen school day or year – pressure will increase. Is there something to prevent or address pressure issues?
	Social emotional learning	Create an all-inclusive outlet for families / students to address the social and emotional learning – is this addressed?
	On-line programming	Relevancy for technology Specific class offerings not available otherwise Free up schedules to take electives Wouldn't want to see "core classes" offered on-line
	Enrichment opportunities	Elementary schools do a great job with the ebb and flow of learning. (not in enrichment for entire year) Can something be in place in Junior High that is similar?

FOCUS AREA: JR. HIGH

ACTION: STOP - What are we doing that we should not be doing? On what programs are we expending time, energy and resources that are no longer relevant, or not significantly contributing to school improvement and student success? What do we need to abandon or phase out in lieu of a more effective effort? Include your rationale for this recommendation.

TABLE #	JR. HIGH STOP	
	PROGRAM	RATIONALE
#15	Coaching / club leaders	Same teachers year after year who don't improve experiences. Needs to be switched up Don't have the best people in the spots / roles.
	Unhealthy food	Stop serving!
#10	<i>No Response</i>	
#9	School Serving unhealthy food	Difficult to focus on learning when brain is affected by sugar, heavy proteins and unhealthy fats and refined grains.
#8	DES Dynamic Earth Systems	Science class for incoming freshman.
#7	Stop making students choose between art / tech and foreign language	

FOCUS AREA: HIGH SCHOOL

ACTION: CONTINUE - What programs are doing *well* that we *must* continue? Include rationale for why this it is such a vital and successful program.

TABLE #	HIGH SCHOOL CONTINUE	
	PROGRAM	RATIONALE
#11	Music Fine Arts	Develop leadership skills both curricular and non- curricular
	CTE	Real life experience authentic learning
	AP course rigor - move to all courses	Writing skills – students get a college level Keep the wide variety of courses available
	Breadth of opportunities / flexibility of learning	On-line independent learning
	Drivers Ed	Concerned that many districts are cutting this; keep @ school
#12	Core Curriculum	Continual update rigorous great academic preparation (college easy for freshmen)
	Arts, Music Elective	Commitment concerts
	Support teachers with technology & integration with instruction	Structure of calendar & day to support learning
	AP courses	Increase number of students that take Minority students in class. Match % population or students Colleges wonder why students haven't taken
	Parent Education & parent connection	SFCP programs to teach parents how to help children Increase attendance & connect information to all
	Virtual Backpack	We liked Refresh delivery possible use technology email notice publicize across all schools Email links of videos

FOCUS AREA: HIGH SCHOOL

ACTION: REFRESH - What existing programs are important but need to be refreshed/modified to optimize their effectiveness? Include your rationale and suggestions for refreshing the program.

TABLE #	HIGH SCHOOL	
	PROGRAM	REFRESH RATIONALE
#11	Building Trades	Manufacturing trades, skills that students build Send to DAOES, disconnect from school day
	Communication skill	Verbal Written Formal organization Ability to communicate is required in all careers!
	Internship	Has great potential, pull in the community, authentic experience
	FPM @ Central	Involve student services, opportunities for leadership 2 days a week Connect with upper classmen, don't go all year – only one semester
	Foreign Language	Not consistent experience at school Best with engaging
	Consistent opportunities / resources	Students get same experience, be sure to benchmark
	Communication self-directed	Takes initiative collaborative
	Provide Students in sports alt to PE	Help students who are in sports, not just varsity, be able to opt out of PE
#12	Professional learning & collaboration for teachers time	
	Access to gifted programs	Progression of course work from Jr. High to HS Access to honors science if not honors math Do we challenge the middle enough?
	Close achievement gap	Textbooks & teaching methods to reach students struggling most Focus on moving students (C to B)
	ID student needs	Is there a curricular area most students (nothing more written on pink sheet)
	Collaborate with business	Refresh internships Business partners Real life application Have businesses come in more
	Science pathway	New standards Results from ACT

FOCUS AREA: HIGH SCHOOL

ACTION: START - What are we not doing that we should be doing? What programs need to be added to improve our effectiveness and success? Include rationale for the recommendation.

TABLE #	HIGH SCHOOL	
	PROGRAM	START RATIONALE
#11	Feed back to students from teachers	Get feedback to help meet needs of students, demonstrate continual improvement; incorporate
	Community release Instructional special needs	Increase opportunities to develop job skills, community experiences along with academic
	More flexible learning opps	Add more on-line courses continue work with BYOD
	Media production	Must teach modern / current instruction on use of media
#12	Identify different learning styles & assessment methods	GPA major focus What colleges are taking (ACT & SAT) is changing Pressure from Gov for high stakes Not all kids can do multiple choice Standardized tests Business does "Kolby" tests to figure out how employees learn. Focus on students' strengths Reassess what college and career are looking for.
	Socio emotional	Start earlier for students Concern students can't succeed at college because emotions. Come home instead of graduating. Taking away electives to support academic needs – that is where kids find success. Possibly re-structure the day for each grade Have the same structure necessary? Increased rigor for all increases pressure on all students Increase support systems or supplement what's there.

FOCUS AREA: HIGH SCHOOL

ACTION: STOP - What are we doing that we should not be doing? On what programs are we expending time, energy and resources that are no longer relevant, or not significantly contributing to school improvement and student success? What do we need to abandon or phase out in lieu of a more effective effort? Include your rationale for this recommendation.

TABLE #	HIGH SCHOOL	
	PROGRAM	STOP RATIONALE
#11	DES	Doesn't count as a college course. Required at this point and holds students back from other opportunities
	Group grades on group projects	Does not demonstrate individual learning; understanding of collaboration
	Silo approach to education	AP track Independent learning readiness Limits students opportunities to take variety of courses.
#12	DES	Isn't preparing kids for college and career Not rigorous
	Silo Approach	