

**North Arvada Middle School  
School Accountability Committee (SAC)**

**March 11, 2019  
7:00 p.m.**

**• Self Directed Math Curriculum**

Charlie Heimbigner present to address questions about the math curriculum.

**What has gone well/more smoothly since implementing this method?**

The freedom for kids to work where they are. Several kids are able to self accelerate through curriculum. 6<sup>th</sup> graders moving forward if needed, and it allows the ability to be flexible.

**What has been a challenge about this method, and why?**

Kids are given a lot of freedom with this method. Kids latch on to the freedom, but don't always have the responsibility for it. For next year, Mr. Heimbigner thinks it would be better to start with more structured lessons at the beginning of the year and then move toward self-paced lessons. There will be a core group of students who will always be with the teacher. For now, he is teaching some mini lessons for certain groups of kids. Goal casting is important to consider: How does he make sure the kids with high potential meet that potential.

Mini lessons: Figuring out when to teach them. All learning targets for the year mapped out. Kids that are pulled into mini lessons are the ones who are not working ahead on their own.

For kids that get parts of lessons and not others: He wants to work on the self-advocacy piece. Mini lessons given every other day so there is more time for them to come to the teacher.

**Are there any supports desired or needed for the teacher, either through professional development, parent or student support?**

Social emotional piece is an issue for 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Having a para in the classroom would be helpful.

Without direct instruction, some parents are concerned there will be holes in learning—that kids are missing pieces along the way that they don't know they are missing.

Mr. Heimbigner says that for the ones who have made it already to Algebra II, (most advanced students) there are not holes. It's the other kids that he is working with. For concerns about holes in Algebra I: Mini lesson groups will always be in Algebra I moving forward.

For advanced students: Mr. Heimbigner is willing to go up to precalculus at the middle school level. Beyond that, students will use Jeffco Virtual Academy blended curriculum if you are moving ahead and want to move forward.

Regarding student self-advocacy: Some kids come to the the teacher for help, and for those that don't, he will come to them to check in if he hasn't heard from them. His goal is to be the "Guide on the Side" not the "Sage on the Stage."

Ultimate goal: To have recorded lessons that students/parents can access from home. (No discussion of when this happen.)

Parent asked if he could describe a day in the life in the classroom: Are they teaching themselves? From teacher point of view, it depends on the kid. They can use the book is a resource, online resources, the students can practice assessments as they go along. A menu has been created so kids can go to their menu and do practice worksheets and do puzzle time worksheets.

- Discussion on making improvements to the current grading system. Parent gave feedback on some of the confusion they have on grades. Under the current system, the Work Habits grade should not affect the content grades; but is meant to be an indicator of why a grade might be low. Improvement to current grading system will be coming as it's seen what is working.

- **Online Safety**

Mr. Heimbigner: "I have a dream of a closed internet for schools." (Like an intranet.)

How often does NAMS do presentations on online safety and making sure kids know appropriate online boundaries? Haven't done an online safety presentation school wide. Lessons on bullying, digital literacy, etc. are done in pride classes, but there is question about if students are listening. Goal in pride classes is to disseminate social emotional learning, not taught as part of regular classroom subjects. Pride lessons are teacher driven but only as successful depending on if students are listening. Kids gave feedback that they don't love the lessons in Pride and would like them to be more engaging.

Would students like it if they got to design it for their peers? Yes.

Chrome books are new, teachers are still figuring out some issues. There is an issue with censorship on certain websites and students can't do some of the research they need. The principal offered an invitation to students to talk with the technology committee about what they are seeing and what the problems are. A Student panel for technology.

Parent question about whether we move toward using the same language regarding online safely? A good conversation to have for the future.

Parent question about whether music should be allowed through headphones in classes, if that music would not be appropriate if it was played out loud: Music allowed in most classes, and teachers should have the responsibility for this in their class. The principal

suggested parents talk to the teacher in the classroom if there is something going on that your student does not work well for your student to focus.

- **Enrollment for 2019-2020**

Enrollment after first round choice enrollment is 633 currently. It is looking like it is on target. The school will lose some, but the principal would like it to be around 620. The school loses about 40 kids per year depending on the transient population.

233 in 6th

194 in 7th

206 in 8<sup>th</sup>