

WORKING SMARTER IN 2009-10

If you followed last year's newsletters, Parent Advisory agendas, or School Board meetings, you may be aware of District 156's quest to move from "good" to "great." Consultant Dr. Gary Fields and focus group participants from both campuses helped our school improvement teams generate prioritized lists of focus areas to guide us through the school improvement process.

Much of October 2008 through July 2009 was spent discussing and **planning** for implementation of program changes around these focus areas. It is now time to **implement**:

Instructional Model: A common lesson delivery plan will increase student achievement. A team of teachers created a model for use by all teachers for all lessons. (This model will be shared in the October newsletter.)

Freshman Year: The freshman year is critical to high school success. The goal is to successfully "graduate" all students to sophomore year. We have reorganized the master schedule to allow some of our freshman teachers common planning time to create cross-curricular lessons, evaluate achievement, plan interventions for students who need additional support, etc.

Relationships, Rigor and Relevance: While relationships has always been at the core of what we do, all departments are working on curriculum that is more rigorous (stretches students) and more relevant to students' lives. Further, three Advanced Placement courses have been added to the 2009-2010 curriculum.

Literacy Across the Curriculum: All content-area teachers will reinforce reading, writing, reasoning, vocabulary, and speaking skills. To that end, all staff will be trained in CRISS Strategies by July 1, 2010. These are researched techniques that teachers can utilize to reinforce literacy skills.

Data: Data should guide our decisions and actions. Brent Raby, Director of Grants and Learning, has designed a system of data collection that will be used by teacher teams to determine whether or not students are learning essential skills and information, and more importantly, to determine appropriate support for students who are not.

Teams of teachers have worked throughout the summer to complete planning for these initiatives. The staffs at both campuses are excited to have finally arrived at implementation phase!

I hope that your summer has been both restful and rejuvenating,

Dr. Teresa Lane, Superintendent

MCHENRY DISTRICT 156 Staff Directory

Board of Education:

Teresa Lane Ed.D., Superintendent
 Gina Swinney Ed.D., Asst. Superintendent
 Darrell Moon, Chief Financial Officer
 Vickie Piekarski, Director Special Programs
 Brent Raby, Director Grants & Learning
 Joseph Zelek, Technology Manager
 Drew Potthoff, Athletic Director

East Campus:

Lynn Schnelker, Principal
 Jeff Ehardt, Assistant Principal
 John Beerbower, Assistant Principal
 Jennifer Lawrence, Dean of Students

West Campus:

Mike Roberts Ed.D., Principal
 Mike Hurckes, Assistant Principal
 Carl Vallianatos, Assistant Principal
 Mike Przybylski, Assistant Principal
 Amber Bowgren, Dean of Students

*The Mission
 of District 156 -
 We are committed to provide
 all students with the skills
 they need to be lifelong
 learners and productive
 citizens."*

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ATHLETICS

IMPORTANT REMINDER: All fall athletes must have their physicals completed and their fees paid before the first day of practice, August 12. Paperwork and fees may be submitted in the Main Office at East, or at the registration tables at West.

SPORTS PHYSICALS: Sophomores, juniors and seniors may obtain their sports physicals on Wednesday, August 5, from 3-7:00PM in the West Campus Main Gym. The cost is only \$25.

FALL SPORTS PHOTOS: Football and Golf photos will be taken August 18; all other teams will be photographed on August 19. Picture forms will be sent home with athletes. All athletes must be in team photos, while individual photos are optional.

Check out www.athletics2000.com/mchs for more information!

FINE ARTS

- TEMPO (To Encourage Music and Performance Opportunities) is the parent support program for our music, theater, and visual art students and programs. The organization meets the second Wednesday of each month in the West Campus music room. All are welcome to participate!
- At its July 21st meeting, the Board of Education approved the Jazz and Symphonic Band trip to Toronto in May 2010. Students are tentatively scheduled to participate in a clinic with Michigan State University faculty, visit the CN Tower, perform in the Toronto International Music Festival, tour Niagara Falls, and enjoy a concert by the Toronto Symphony.

HEALTH OFFICE

Welcome back, students and staff!

Illinois School Code requires that all students have valid physicals and compliant immunization records. **The state deadline is Oct. 15. Any student not in compliance by that date will be sent home until they have proof of physical and immunizations.**

If cost is an issue, the Family Health Partnership Clinic may be able to help. Their number is 815-334-8987. They can do physicals and immunizations. If only immunizations are needed, the McHenry County Department of Health holds immunization clinics at many locations on different days. Please call 815-334-4536. Take a copy of your child's immunization records to your appointment.

If we can be of assistance, please call!

Kathleen Larimer (West)

Shelley Kinney (East)

Celeste Heidemann (District)

GUIDANCE

How can I take a college visit?

Families are encouraged to visit prospective colleges. While it is preferred that visits occur during non-school days, students who complete the following steps in advance of the visit, will be excused:

1. Pick up a Pre-planned College Visit Form from the Guidance Office.
2. Complete the form and have it signed by parents and a guidance counselor at least 1 week before the scheduled visit.
3. Provide the name and phone number of the university personnel with whom you've scheduled the appointment, or provide a confirmation letter from the university.



PASS

(Parent Access Support System)



PASS allows parents and students access to attendance and grades from home computers. This system also provides a direct email link to teachers. In order to protect student privacy, all parents are issued a PIN. We encourage you to share the PIN with your child, so that he or she may also monitor personal progress. Parents of sophomores, juniors, and seniors may continue to use PINs issued in previous school years. Parents of freshmen will be issued PINs at the Freshman Parent Orientation at 7PM on Wednesday, August 12.

Grades will be updated for parental access on the evenings of the following dates:

Sept. 8	Jan. 26
Oct. 6	Feb. 23
Nov. 10	March 23
Dec. 8	May 11

PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All parents are invited to attend the quarterly meetings of the Parent Advisory Committee. The purpose of these meetings is to provide an opportunity for parents to have input on major school initiatives and provide for a healthy two-way communication system between school representatives and families. (This is NOT a fundraising organization.)

Meetings begin a 7PM in room B308 (in the main hallway across from the theater).

- Tuesday, September 8, 2009
- Tuesday, November 10, 2009
- Tuesday, January 12, 2010
- Tuesday, March 9, 2010

PARENT MINI-SCHEDULE OPEN HOUSE

All parents will have the opportunity to “walk in the shoes” of your sons and daughters as you attend classes on Wednesday, August 26. Pick up class schedules at the back entrance and be ready when the “first bell rings” at 7PM.

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet the teachers and staff of McHenry High School as you follow a condensed version of our school day.



ATTENDANCE POLICY CHANGE

A review of attendance data from the 2008-09 school year revealed:

- By the end of the 1st semester, 16% of students were absent more than 7 days.
- The attendance of freshmen and sophomores is worse than that of juniors and seniors. The average number of days that our freshmen miss for non-school-related issues is 11.
- Seniors demonstrated that they could hold absences to five or less in the semester before graduation, when provided an incentive.

Given this data and the national research that supports the correlation between attendance and achievement, we have revised our attendance policy to reduce the number of excused absences. This policy is in the new student agendas which will be distributed during the first week of school. It will also be featured during the Parent Open House/Mini-schedule.

FRESHMAN SUPPLIES LIST



For the first time, freshmen teachers

have compiled a supplies list for their students:

- | | |
|---|---|
| TI-84 calculator | Highlighters: pink, green, yellow, blue, orange |
| 3-ring binder | 3x5 cards, at least 200 |
| Folders: red, green, yellow, blue, orange | P.E. uniform |
| Blue / black pens | Gym shoes |
| #2 pencils | Colored pencils |
| Loose-leaf paper | Sticky notes: pink, green, yellow, blue, orange |
| Yellow spiral notebook | |

There may be additional supplies for elective courses.



McHenry East High School
1012 North Green Street
McHenry, IL 60050

Important Beginning-of-the-Year Dates:

- August 5: Link Crew Rally (Freshmen Only) 9-11:30 AM, Upper Gym
- August 6: Senior Book Distribution, 7:30-4:00, New Family Registration
- August 7: Junior Book Distribution, New Family Registration
- August 10: Sophomore Book Distribution, 7:30-4:00
- August 11: Freshman Book Distribution, 7:30-4:00
- August 12: IHSA First Day of Practice
- August 12: Freshman Parent Orientation, 7 PM, East Theater
- August 13, 14: . Teacher Institute Days
- August 17: First Day of School, 7:30 to 2:35 PM
- August 26: Parent Mini-schedule, 7-9 PM

- September 7: ... Labor Day, no school
- September 8: ... Parent Advisory, 7PM, East rm.308
- September 11: .. Monogram Breakfast, periods 1,2,3
- September 18: . Teacher Institute Day
- Sept. 16,17: Warrior Pride Camp (Freshmen only) Camp Lakota
- September 24: . Progress Reports Mailed
- Sept. 28-Oct.3: Homecoming Activities

