

## Academic Excellence Meeting 11/24/15

- Review of Mission Statement/Goals/Protocol/Old Business
  - No more summer enrichment program-not well attended
  - Grading/HW policy development
  - Concerns about Advanced Placement
  
- Mr. Gulisane presented Homework/Grading Report for Elementary School:
  - Update of report card to better reflect Core Curriculum objectives and promote consistency through grade levels
  - Standards aligned report cards include:
    - Major headings with Common Core standards
    - Achievement Levels:
      - 1-Below, 2-Developing, 3-Proficient, 4-Advanced
    - Effort scale, E, U
    - Comments for each quarter (Art, Music PE 2x a year)
    - Learning behaviors addressed
    - Child oriented vis-a-vis the standards, not competitive
    - Trifold sheet with explanation for parents
  
- Committees:
  - Grade/Homework Committees
    - Elementary School needs more representatives
    - Standardized expectations, consistency in scoring, grading
      - Grading is not exact science
      - Concerns about range of grading methods
      - Some teachers don't enter grades on-line regularly
      - Parent involvement through parent portal
  
  - Weighted Grades:
    - Recommendation to hold off on further work until consistency in grading (both departmentally and within grade level) is established
    - Guidance calculated how weighted grades would have affected past years' student rankings using 2 scenarios
      - Not everything can be taken into account when calculating i.e. acceleration data can change results
  
  - Matt Fuller: Extra Curricular Policy
    - We need subcommittee to help kids stay in athletics and excel academically
    - Parent Involvement Sub-Committee
    - Hillsdale Library along with Clermont, Philmont; fundraising for student English books.
      - Wants community participation
      - Book party after school, Activities at School

- Suggestions for new Committee Work:
  - Extend Survey Process to Parents
  - Include College readiness issues under parent involvement
  - Sub Committee- College Readiness
  - Preparation for financial literacy as separate subcommittee
    - Include up to date information for students, possible mock interview night, Resume building workshops, Portfolio prep class
  
- Additional Concerns: Advanced Placement and Honors Option
  - Discussion within Science Dept. about replacing some science Advanced Placement courses with college courses from Columbia-Greene
  - Science teachers have concerns about student preparation for Advanced Placement Courses
  - Discussion among Committee members:
    - Possibility of students being allowed to try AP courses without receiving W on transcript if they withdraw within designated time period and transfer to Regents course?
    - Point made that Chatham has Pre-AP courses to better prepare students for Advanced Placement curriculum
    - Question of whether Honors Option Coursework prepares students for AP
  - Concerns about college preparedness and rigor of Community College courses
  - Honors Option seen by many parents, teachers and students as being educationally ineffective and recommend replacing with traditional Honors courses/curriculum
    - Honors Option assignments perceived as checklist rather than educational enrichment
    - Self guided study not appropriate for mastery of advanced curriculum goals. Absence of teaching is frustrating to students