

Directors' Report
CCS Board of Education Meeting, January 10, 2022

Collaboration Update

Tory Beasley has moved into a shared position between seat-based and online special education. This will be a gradual transition, with her starting at .2 online, .8 seat-based, and moving into up to .5/.5. We are excited about this staffing change as an opportunity for collaboration and are looking for additional ways for the online and seat-based SPED teams to work together and support each other.

We had an all-staff meeting on December 15, where we shared info from the previous board meeting. The group that is participating in MTSS training shared a brief training with the staff, this group will be presenting on its learnings throughout the year with a goal of developing a 3-5 year, all-school implementation plan.

Online Program

Current total online enrollment as of 1/3/22: **297/330** (90%)

K-5: **26/40** (65%)

6/12: **271/290** (93%)

The last day of Semester 1 is January 7. During the week of January 10-14, students in grades 6-12 participate in J-Term, to allow teachers time for grading and for enrollment into second semester classes. (K-5 is "business as usual," as their courses are year-round.)

- 6-8 students will work on the Math STAR during this time, as well as some Social-Emotional Learning activities facilitated by Amy Miller, Social Worker.
- 9-12 students participate in activities on the MN Career Information System (MCIS) website as facilitated by Natalie Swiler, School Counselor. They will also be doing their STAR testing.

Hiring updates since last board meeting: No updates, but Tory Beasley has started her work with online special education students.

We are working on "mapping" our students and staff to get a better idea of where our people are located. This will have many uses, the first of which being the identification of testing sites for MCAs. Right now, we are planning to have 4 testing sites: Crosslake, Duluth, Saint Cloud, and Twin Cities. I will be working with Beverly Loeffler, our District Assessment Coordinator, to make sure these sites are proctored by trained staff.

For the staff development day on 12/22, online teams reviewed their learnings from the Quality Matters unit on Orienting Online Learners that they all completed. We discussed many exciting plans and ideas, including putting together student/family videos (for before they choose our

program), new staff orientation videos/modules, Team meetings where new students can meet all their teachers virtually, daily task lists for teachers and students, and a mentorship program for new staff members. Staff are stepping up to lead these efforts!

Environmental Education: 9-12 grade students are doing a nature journaling and civic action project as part of their Online Advisory course. The project this year is Salt Watch, sponsored by the Izaak Walton League. Students become citizen scientists by using their test kit to test local waterways for chloride pollution. They then post their results on a national map and database where it is compiled to give a real time picture of the extent of chloride pollution across the country.

Seat-Based Program

Linda Hill began as a paraprofessional with us on January 3, 2022. She is replacing our long-time paraprofessional, Lisa Young, who has switched over to an online para position.

The seat based and online SPED collaboration has been working very well.

The interventionists that we have in place are doing a great job. We are really working on missed skills and the students are making great progress.

EE: Students have been utilizing the school forest on a very regular basis. Ms. G is incorporating this on a nearly daily basis. We are encouraging teachers to get their students out to snowshoe! The solarium is being used on a regular basis, especially by Mrs. Powers' class and the middle school as they care for the raised garden beds, the huge koi and goldfish and the tiny baby trout. ALSO! Aquaponics lettuce was served during lunch this week!!

We are receiving sponsorships and generating interest for the trap team. One of our newest board members, Chris Rhinehart, will be directly involved with this. Thank you!

The archery team will be competing in their first tournament for the first time in 2 years! All are excited! The second session has just begun and we have a great representation of CCS students! Thanks to Mr. Swanson for his dedication to this sport!

The seat based staff continues to go above and beyond to help in all areas needed. Lots of flexibility and schedule changes happen each day. I really appreciate this! Our substitutes have also been phenomenal!

Our HRS certification is moving along very well. Thanks Mara Powers for diligently working on this!