



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

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To: The Board of Education

From:

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RE: Middle School Mathematics Proposal

Date: May 11, 2021

Type of Report: Special Report

The purpose of this report is to share a middle school mathematics proposal with the Board of Education that reflects our recommendations for the 2021-2022 school year and beyond.

A cross departmental team consisting of members of the Teaching and Learning department, middle school principals, middle school math department chairs and an elementary school support specialist has crafted a proposal that seeks to better operationalize the district vision and commitment to equity.

District 97 Mathematics Vision Statement

In grounding the proposal, the vision statement that was developed via consensus was a guidepost:

The curricula focus will allow for common student experiences that include real world context that is focused on research based best practices. Students will develop reasoning and problem-solving skills while exploring engaging CCSS aligned materials. Technology infused instruction will allow students to develop inquiry skills and promote lifelong learning. A constructivist, student centered approach, will support risk-taking and support the development of a growth mindset. Classroom tasks will be differentiated while promoting collaboration and perseverance in our community of learners.

As a Math department we collectively set high expectations and equip students with learning strategies to conquer familiar and unfamiliar tasks. Our daily practices embrace and value a growth mindset and provide students with multiple opportunities to collaborate and persevere through productive struggle and active participation.

As educators, we will establish a safe environment that is focused on learning over grades where students feel comfortable and confident to take risks. Teachers will use multiple ways of assessment for students to demonstrate their level of understanding and mastery of the learning outcomes. These practices are an application of frequent, high quality, meaningful professional development that covers best practices.

Current Features of the Proposal

- Reimagining the course trajectory for middle school students by implementing 5 courses in the 2022-2023 school year:
 - ❖ 6th grade mathematics
 - ❖ 7th grade mathematics
 - ❖ 8th grade mathematics
 - ❖ Algebra 1
 - ❖ Geometry
- Revamping the current course for advancement by analyzing multiple sources of data
- Expanding access to a path to Algebra I by lengthening the summer bridge math courses and providing above grade level content and support during second and third trimesters
- Increasing the provision of supplemental mathematics resources

Stakeholder Engagement

The team sought to gather feedback from a number of sources in order to either reach consensus or gather feedback to further inform the proposal. The diversity of stakeholder voice was and is critical in refining the proposal:

March 3, 2021: presentation of proposal to middle school mathematics department

March 8, 2021: presentation of proposal to the administrative leadership team

March 11, 2021: presentation of proposal to elementary school teachers, school psychologists, MultiTiered System of Support (MTSS) leaders and enrichment specialists

March 22, 2021: presentation of proposal to PTO Council and Diversity Council membership

April 12, 2021: presentation of proposal to a joint meeting of the district's Professional Learning Committee and Diversity Council

April 13, 2021: presentation of proposal to the district's Cabinet team

Week of April 19, 2021: completion of student survey (seventh grade)

Week of April 26, 2021: completion of student survey (eighth grade)

May 3, 2021: presentation of an update of the proposal to Education Council

May 6, 2021: facilitation of student focus groups

Additional information will be provided during the May 11th Board of Education meeting.