

“Redesigning Student Learning Experiences at Mason County High School”

Mason County High School
Maysville, Kentucky
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Participants
MCHS NexGen Leadership Team

Pam Stewart

Dana Belcher

Shannon Roberts

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**Redesigning Student Learning Experiences
at Mason County High School**

Background	Overall Purpose	Purpose of Today's Session	Explore Headers
A team attended Next Generation Learning Leadership group through UK	To increase the pathways and opportunities for Next Generation Learners beginning in 2014 School Year	To identify the top ___ ideas or initiatives we can implement with fidelity	What are we doing now that is working for the students?
A team visited and/or gained exposure from Elkhorn Crossing, Reynoldsburg City Schools, Danville Ind. & Eminence to look at programming for career tracks and project based learning	To increase students' 21 st Century Skills	To identify the key actions we can take by February	What new approaches can we begin?
A team visited Locust Trace in Fayette County for agriculture project based learning	To increase student engagement	Non-Purpose of Today's Session	What should we stop doing because it's not working?
CCR Data shows 48.1% in 2012 but improved to 54.5% in 2013	There is a 1:1 ratio of students to iPads		To worry about the possible impacts on staff
Career-ready data is an area needing improvement	There are significant numbers of students failing that we want to address and help make successful	Minimal Initiatives are in place: <u>Flipped Classroom</u> : 1 Math Class <u>Middle College</u> : use a different name <u>Mentorship</u> : revamp needed <u>CCR</u> : More pathways needed See artifact	Focus Headers
Community college within the district is a resource as is MSU. Both willing to work with the district	The district has a desire to find and provide a meaningful experience (PBL, 21 st Century Skills, Capstone Projects, Digital Portfolios) for all students, not just those going to college		Top Ideas to Implement Next Year
Currently working toward hybrid and online classes being in place at MCHS (provide more opportunities for online classes at MCHS)			Sure-fire ways to get council and staff buy-in for our top ideas?
			Tasks
			Who Will Do It/ Deadline

Review of Compression Plan Design

During the review of the Compression Plan Design the following edits or additions were made:

Background

Project Lead the Way: provided thru the Gates Foundation from UK; curriculum in place for Computer Science, English, Health Sciences; Encore: Arts; Agriculture (5 dots)

- Potential to have academy
- Revamped property needed
- Going to school board by January
- Early Scheduling needed for Move Up Day. Also for MS Exploration Course

Purpose of Today's Session

To identify the key actions we can take by **January**/February

Background artifact: The status of initiatives at Mason County High School was reviewed.

- **Innovative Scheduling** (No)
- **PLC – Teacher Roll out process – buy in** (No)
- **Mastery Learning** (No)
- **Project Based / Challenged Based Learning** (No)
- **Flipped Classroom Model** (One math classroom)
- **Blended Learning** (No)
- **Middle College** (Yes, we just haven't called it "Middle College"...and it needs expanded)
- **Career Clusters / Villages** (No)
- **Fusion** (No)
- **Mentorship** (Yes, by name only...needs revamped)
- **Digital Portfolio's** (No)
- **College / Career Readiness** (Need to provide more pathways for career ready and get more students college ready)
- **Student Capstone Presentations** (No)

Key Session Deliverables

The leadership team members generated, prioritized, and merged the following ideas that best serve their stated purpose.

The Top Ideas or Initiatives We Can Implement with Fidelity by Next Year

Innovative Scheduling (8 dots)

- Course offerings/sequence (3 dots)
- Entrance Exams at MS for HS offerings- allow students to comp out of classes (1 dot)
- Restructure electives not in CCR path

Project Lead the Way: provided thru the Gates Foundation from UK; curriculum in place for Computer Science, English, Health Sciences; Encore: Arts; Agriculture (5 dots)

- Potential to have academy
- Revamped property needed
- Going to school board by January
- Early Scheduling needed for Move Up Day. Also for MS Exploration Course
- Project Based/Challenge Based Learning

Career Clusters/Villages (4 dots)

- Develop Pathway Blueprint (3 dots)
- Student ownership-understanding of pathways (1 dot)
- Learning path for every student (1 dot)
 - College
 - Work skills
 - Combination
- Flex Schedules
- Start at MS with CCR information, acceleration, prep or paths. Makes students aware of more careers.
- Using the same school structure from the early 1900s-get the kids out of school, 24-7 learning

Redefine RTI Class (5 dots)

-CERT Pilot

-Remediation may be better with student's own teacher

- Remediation in school calendar
- CERT with adjustments
 - ACT Predictor
 - Remediation
 - In Pilot Year

Middle College (4 dots)

Other ideas generated during the Explore Phase and considered during the Focus Phase

Explore Phase: What are we doing now that is working for the students?

Focus Phase: What Needs Expanded?

- Math “Flipped Classroom” has shown success with embedded technology (1 dot)
- Academy Odyssey Ware for Credit Recovery
- The “look” of MCHS college student has changed...all walks of life get to attend!
- Student input is valued. Students are engaged by leadership teams.
- JROTC, AG, Culinary
- Shannon Roberts and Pam Steward represent increased pathways and increased career rates
- ATC that has been offering four classes for 100 students
- Improved opportunity for students to take college classes. Students can attend college classes all day now.
- Digital textbooks-content
- Reinstated Teaching Pathway. Formerly was Teacher Cadets and Morehead State University did away with it. Students can now get college credit.
- Plant the Dream: a mentorship-like program for troubled students
- Mentorship
- Data tracking and identifying students by using Mason County system of spreadsheets
- Students are given real-world opportunities (ex. School farm, catering) (2 dots)
- Technology rich with 1:1 iPads and real world (2 dots)
- Opportunities for AP classes that are showing success rates
- Opportunities for IC3 and MOS certification which was implemented this school year
- Apprenticeships outside the building-culinary school (2 dots)

Explore Phase: What should we stop doing because it’s not working?

Focus Phase: What should we keep or revamp?

- Class Schedule: it now has more opportunities but has been basically the same for 14 years.
- Confined by traditional schedule
- Forcing ALL students to “get ready for college”
- Grading...not just normal grading-more project based. Don’t grade on neatness of binders!
- Current way ILP is completed with a “just get it done” attitude. ILP is not utilized as meant.
- Honor Classes as we don’t limit who takes them. Are they truly “honors?” Need to look at AP courses instead.
- Not all IEPs are implemented appropriately

- Special Education resource room methods: Data shows not working. There are scheduling issues with contact time. Also issues with regular education teacher accountability. (1 dot)
- “Old School” teaching styles. Top 1/3 teachers use evidence-based practices. Other fall back to old practices. Working toward more student engagement and less lecture. (1 dot)
- Some classes that are not Core Content should not be taught because they are not related to the career pathway
- Lack of ownership for some students
- Summer school is a reinforce for some students, those that refuse to try during the school year
- Students rely on night school-will miss regular school and make it up at night. Some classes cannot be made up at night, example culinary.
- PD without focus on College and Career Readiness

Explore: What New Approaches Can We Begin?

Focus: Same Question

- Mastery Learning (2 dots)
- Use Work Ethics Seal with Chamber of Commerce
- Network with Business and Industry: for student tutoring, dialog about skills needed, inform them about what schools are doing
- Advising-ILP
- Fusion period- core content fused and is class project based (1 dot)
- Blended Learning in core class areas. Online and teacher driven.
- Student Capstone Presentations
- Digital Portfolios which are part of senior capstone and justify learning

Explore: What would students say they need or want?

Focus: Not included

- Less sitting, more moving
- “Hands-on”
- “Teach me something I will use in college”
- Why Algebra?? Practical application of math classes
- To stay at vocational all day to master a skill
- More opportunities relating to their interest
- Real world-authentic learning- the why
- Real world results of their success (across al contents, how is this helping me really)
- Work on projects
- Advanced students like a college traditional model
- Let me do nothing
- Rewards-recognition

Session Evaluation

What Went Well

- Sharing ideas
- All ideas identified!
- Started “doing” not just talking
 - Organized Planning
- Development of plan
- Everyone was able to share their thinking and plan together
- Organization of priorities/next steps
- Organization!! Everything was so organized as we brainstormed! You helped my OCD! 😊
- Got organized and started to narrow our focus
- Organization of ideas
- Narrowed our focus

Lessons Learned

- Bigger task than first thought
- Importance of identifying key concepts
- Faced facts about our school
- Planning requires time to discuss and brainstorm. Organize ideas/prioritize.
- Visuals helped to narrow thoughts & prioritize. Lots to do!
- We have a long road ahead but it’s possible
- Organization is key to moving our focus. Also, our administrators truly value our input as teachers.
- We have a lot of great ideas and a plan for moving forward.
- Awareness of what is “right” and what needs improvement
- It will take a lot of planning and developing to implement. Need to begin actual “work on the work” sessions

What would we change for our next session?

- More teacher input
- #/Prioritize tasks
- Not sure
- NA
- More classroom teachers
- More teachers involved
- Have more classroom teachers at the table for discussion
- No change

Action Plan

Tasks	Who Will Do It/ Deadline	Update/ Status
Write report and mail to Greta and Kermit	Jill/By Monday December 16	Completed Emailed 12/15/13
Get budget to committee members	Kermit/by Dec. 17 meeting	Discussed 12-17-13 Funding from facilities/bonding Restructuring of staff other than adding staff
Get list of staff and certification to committee members	Steve/by Dec. 17 meeting	
Determine course offerings/pathways <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine the pathway sequences • Look at existing pathways • Print/post pathways 	Team/January meeting	In process Current pathways for posting began after Dec. 12 meeting Discussed 12-17-13
Define Innovative Scheduling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring ideas to meeting 	Team/Dec. 17 Meeting	
Determine ways to get staff and site-based buy-in for plan	Jill & Team/Dec. 17 meeting	
Share Compression Plan Report with HS Department Heads during planning periods	Pam, Steve, Seth/Before Christmas Break-Dec. 19th	
Talk with Middle College staff about scheduling and business pathway	Pam/By January meeting	
Hold departmental meetings to determine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What to offer • What's required • Electives • Course syllabus 	Steve/By January meeting	
Survey students about course offerings they desire	Shawn/By January meeting	
Plan to take teachers (and students) on schools visits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit a Project Lead the Way School 	Kermit/By January meeting	
Create Master Schedule options	Team/January meeting	
Plan schedule for entrance exams with MS 8 th Grade		

Tasks	Who Will Do It/ Deadline	Update/ Status
Determine the Core Sequences Area		
Get site-based approval	Robbie/February	

Communication Plan

Specific Messages:

1. Why we are doing this
 - a. To increase student engagement
 - b. To increase career opportunities
 - c. To increase CCR Opportunities
 - d. To individualize learning
 - e. For 24-7 learning- Next Generation Learning
2. Explanation of what Next Generation Learning is
3. Information learned from visits to other schools
4. Our desires for our kids. Statement of impact heard on school visit: “Your kids will be working for these kids.” (Creativity)
5. Information in inspirational-motivational videos
6. The positive impacts on adults
7. Outline of proposed plan
8. The effects of the plan on teachers
9. Information about Project Lead the Way
10. The benefits of becoming dual-credit for teachers/students
11. Timelines- actions to this point, proposed timeline
12. Background of the leadership team’s work
13. The effects of the plan on students
14. The results of student input
15. CCR Data
16. Benefits to business

Who Needs to Know	What They Need to Know	Who Will Tell them	How Will We Tell Them	Deadline
Teachers	1-16	Steve	Dept. meetings, planning periods, PLC on Jan. 3	
Students	1,2,4,7, 9,10, 13	Pam & Seth	At special events: career fairs, scheduling night Homeroom Via 5-minute video created by students	
Parents	1,2,4,7, 9,10, 13	Pam & Seth	At special events, PTSO meetings, newspaper, radio webpage, video, phone system	

Who Needs to Know	What They Need to Know	Who Will Tell them	How Will We Tell Them	Deadline
Board of Education	1-16	Rick & some team members/students	Board of Ed meetings	
Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Business/Industry	1,2,3,4,7,9,16	Rick, Kermit & some team members/students	Meetings Also invite them to school special events	
Site-based Council	1-16	Steve, Robbie, Seth, Shannon, Kermit & Pam	Site-based meetings	
MSU-Joe Pace	10	Dana	Telephone call meeting	
MCTC-Justin Pate	10	Dana	Telephone call meeting	
Elementary Schools	1,2,3,4,7,9	Rick, Kermit & Greta	Meeting	
Middle School	1,2,3,4,7,9	Amy	Meeting	
Media: WPTM & newspaper	1,2,3,4,7,9,16	Rick & Nancy	Media releases	