

KES Town Hall Meeting - Monday, May 10th

EOY parties will happen on the last day of school. Please coordinate with teachers for prepackaged snacks and other things to bring in a week before so everything is safe (May 28th).

Things on our mind: focusing on two things this year which are literacy and SEL (social emotional learning). We are identifying a structure or program to use for word study on every grade level. Previously, we used what UCPS built in, but the literacy lead is looking into programs. We will be a pilot school for the district for K-1 - program is FlyLeaf. It's a phonics based program, it has decodable text which is different than a leveled reader. This will focus on sounds and spelling patterns. School also purchased a second grade version. UCPS provided professional development on a program to help in upper grades. We will use the Latin root format in 4th and Greek roots in 5th. Morning meetings have been beneficial for SEL. We are trying to have different grade levels deliver SEL lessons quarterly.

MTSS: Multi Tiered Systems of Support - noticing kids have some needs, tracking needs of kids, progress monitoring for layers of support. We are happy to see when kids are showing growth and closing gaps. MTSS addresses reading, math, and behavior. We will roll into behavior this upcoming year. This year was not conducive to bringing in behavior MTSS.

- Tier 1: establishing consistent classroom strategies (all rooms across the building)
- Tier 2: check in/check out system to provide behavior support and get some data on students - when is it happening/certain days over others etc.

We are purchasing an intervention program for math. We had teachers try out different programs to see the one that would work best for our school.

We did a lot of training with the science of reading. Teachers also participated in dyslexia training. There are lots of cool tools we are using. Teachers learned how to screen for reading needs based on training from this year. This year did not stop us or stall out progress.

We would like to hold another parent academy in the fall related to changes in reading and literacy instruction that we are making.

In March, we worked to establish a new vision and mission for our SIP (school improvement plan). We held a virtual meeting with a parent facilitating. We had a lot of good input from students, parents, and staff. Then, we asked all families for feedback from the strategic planning session. We looked at academic and personal values. Critical thinking came back as the top academic value. Perseverance and resilience were #2. Inquisitive mindset was #3. For personal values, accountability and responsibility were #1; belief in self/self worth #2. Vision/mission words that came out on top were #1 confidence; empowered #2. These will help us draft the language of our vision/mission statement.

Summer learning camp (due to CARES Act): if you applied you should receive contact from teachers in the future. Teachers will check in to make sure you are still interested so we know about class sizes. Keep in mind: students with the biggest needs are top priority but we would like to have anyone who applied attend. There are lots of incentives from UCPS for staffing. This has made it more enticing for our best teachers. It will definitely feel like a regular school structure. They will still do small groups and interventions. We will host a summer learning camp at KES as well as an afterschool summer learning camp. Traditionally we had a Read to Achieve camp and that will be enveloped within the camp. There will be some differentiation but it's mostly for skills from this past school year.

Rising Fifth Grade Team Teaching: the plan for next year is to move to a team teaching approach. Details were rolled out to fourth grade parents last week. Recording and Q&A will be coming out soon from that meeting. Schedule will be two big chunks with recess and lunch in the middle. First chunk reading/writing/word study or math/science and then they will flip. Teams will be made up of two teachers and they will change students. Students start with their homeroom teacher and will wrap up with the homeroom teacher (last block of time with recess/lunch and second of the chunks of instruction). Students will still be able to leave for AIG/resource etc. This should better prepare students for middle school.

EOGs are coming up soon. It's hard to test kids this year with what a crazy year it has been but it is good to see where we are. We are looking for things we wouldn't have expected but are not making big judgement calls based on scores. Students do better when they aren't stressed out. A single day of testing doesn't mean everything. It is a single point of data. Third and fourth take reading and math; fifth grade takes reading, math and science EOGs. Children can take up to three hours for testing for reading. Teachers will log them onto laptops. Math tests tend to take students longer so generally three to three and a half hours for math. Virtual kids will have to come in. Mrs. Williams is working on a plan so that virtual students are coming into a safe space and getting picked up right after testing. Virtual kids are split between two days for each subject. Virtual Mandarin students will go to Mandarin teacher.

AIG: if your student is in third grade, they look for EOG scores as well as CogAT and students' grades and they use a rubric for qualification. The same qualifying procedures count for fourth and fifth grade except the CogAT since they don't take that. If they don't qualify for all, we can bring them in for summer testing which is more intelligence testing than achievement.

We also have a group of four parents and three staff members that are meeting on "Tough Conversations on Personal Biases." It's hard to talk about our personal biases or something that impacts the way you make decisions. These can even be things you don't realize. Our hope from this committee is that we will open up the idea that we can bring stuff into the class that we don't intend to. If you are interested in joining for the fall, please reach out to Mr. Vaughn.

About next year: town halls will continue to be held virtually. We are getting more participation this way and conversations are very valuable. Please fill out the parent placement request for

next year. It's been linked in many emails. We are hopeful they will allow volunteers in the building next year. Our teachers/staff have missed the assistance. No guidance has been given yet from UCPS. We have no information on masks/quarantining guidelines for next year as it comes from the state. UCPS is not planning on any virtual options unless the state mandates it. We will not have a walker line as freeing up Nesbit traffic for parents who would park there has been helpful for dismissal running smoother. We will not be opening the lunchroom up for parents for next year. This is for safety and efficiency of lunch.

Fifth grade moving up ceremony: two chairs will be placed for each parking spot. You can use them but you don't have to. Your child will get out of the car and stand in front of the two chairs. We will walk through the rest with the students.