
Fall Principal's Coffee



Stonegate Elementary School

November 19, 2010

8:30-9:30 am

Topics for Discussion

- Seven Keys for College Readiness
- Supporting All Learners
- Basic Math Fact Instruction
- Data Notebooks
- Parent Participation on School Improvement Team
- Field Trip Cost
- Arts Integration/Creativity and Analysis
- Grading and Reporting

*Thank you for your
questions and
submissions!*

Seven Keys to College-Career Readiness

- The Seven Keys help to prepare students for *the option* of attending and completing college with success
 - Whether students attend college or not is a family decision; families often select alternative pathways
 - The benchmarks are “guides” to success and help students, staff, and parents identify areas for possible improvement
 - Provides common language and benchmarks for parents and staff members to discuss with students as they set individual goals
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Supports for Student Learning

- Instruction is differentiated to meet the needs of all learners
- Multiple data points are analyzed to inform ongoing instruction, including pre-assessments, classwork assignments, exit cards, projects and summative assessments
- Some students require re-teaching or acceleration and receive it as appropriate
- Teachers use a variety of techniques to create an engaging and motivating learning environment



Basic Math Facts at Stonegate

- MCPS has interwoven the instruction of basic math facts into the math curriculum
 - However, teachers supplement specific basic math facts practice in addition to what's covered in the curriculum
 - Speed-o's
 - Mad Minutes
 - Basic Math Facts Tests
 - Integration of math games (ie. *Around the World*, *Fact Families*, etc)
 - Origo intervention for selected students in grades 2-3; focus on number sense and basic facts
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Data Notebooks

- PTA workshops have been provided over the last two years and surveys have been sent to families for input; as a result of the input, ongoing revisions have been made to modify grade level data notebooks
 - Teachers are currently working to identify strengths and areas for improvement based on stakeholder input
 - Planning to hold a session in Fall 2011 to address individual grade level data notebooks
 - A one-sheeter of important terms and definitions is forthcoming
 - Contact teacher should you have specific questions about your child's data notebook
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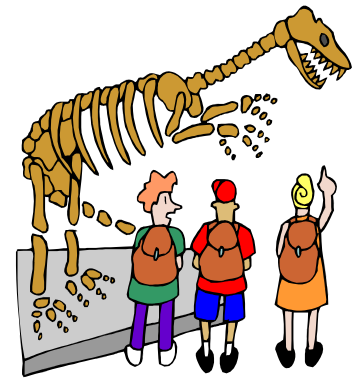
School Improvement Team

- School Improvement Team meetings were held on the last Monday of every month and were advertised in the Principal's Newsletter regularly, *2007, 2008, 2009*
- SIT meetings are *currently* held 3-4 times a year, on the last Monday of the given month from 3:15-4:15:
 - August 11
 - October 25
 - January 31
 - June 6

Parents are always welcome!

Field Trip Cost

- Total cost includes
 - ❑ Hourly rate for bus (how many hours gone)
 - ❑ Mileage rate (distance)
 - ❑ Admission cost (We can no longer require chaperones to pay admission cost, so their cost must be figured in to the total)
- Total is divided by number of students expected to attend trip
- Trips must be tied to curriculum
- Grants are sometimes used to reduce cost



Arts Integration

- Various components of the arts are infused into the grade level curriculum
 - For example,
 - Music is used when teaching mood
 - Drawing is used when teaching visualization
 - Drama is used when studying plays, folktales and poetry
 - The new Elementary Integrated Curriculum (EIC) will foster more integration among the content areas and the arts
 - The EIC will blend reading, language arts and mathematics instruction with lessons in science, social studies, music, art and physical education in a way that spurs creativity and critical thinking skills
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Grading and Reporting: What We Know

- MCPS has adopted a standards-based grading and reporting system
 - Academic grades reflect what students know and are able to do in relation to grade level expectations
 - Grades are based on multiple measures over time
 - Learning is evaluated using varied tasks/assignments such as tests, projects, reports, teacher observation, and discussions
 - Learning skills are separate from academic grades and include areas such as completing tasks, participating, using feedback, cooperating with others, following directions and exercising self-control
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Grading and Reporting: What We Know

- *Homework for practice* is NOT a part of the academic grade; it is reported as a learning skill
 - *Homework evaluated for learning* may be included as part of the academic grade
 - Feedback is provided to students on their work and their progress toward goals; feedback may be in written or oral form
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Grading and Reporting: Where We Are

- Working with county representatives to generate a formal, written grading policy for Stonegate Elementary (policies are currently local school decisions, but must reflect vision and established county procedures)
 - Representatives at central office are currently discussing policy language and consistency among schools
 - Next steps at Stonegate include:
 - Development of policy, to be shared at the beginning of 2nd semester
 - Distribution of policy in a variety of ways
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We Need Your Help



- Please review the weekly progress reports on a regular basis.
 - Ensure that your child has the necessary materials for everyday learning, including pencils, backpacks, and assignments.
 - Develop at-home organizational plans for your children to set them up for success.
 - Talk to your teacher if your child is falling behind or experiencing difficulty in mastering content or the learning skills.
 - Check and sign homework planners (grades 3-5) daily for notes from the teacher which may guide organization of binder
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Questions?

