

SAC Meeting Minutes- ELMS

Date – 1/17/23

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:18 AM

Members Present: Deborah Clark, Amira Ray, Karen Huzar, Cristina Fallara, Stacy Alcuaz, Kristen Collora, Elizabeth Citro, Cheryl Middleton

Members Absent: Crystal Bruce, Jennifer McCoy, Lisa Hedman

Guests: Mr. Stewart, Mrs. Lee, Mr. Schlierer, Andrea Bouchard

2. Approval of Minutes

: Motion to approve the December minutes as written by Mrs. Alcuaz, second by Mrs. Collora .

3. Presentations:

Engineering – Mr. Stewart: All students take Engineering as an elective, using the design process to develop problem-solving skills. Curriculum is based on Project Lead the Way. The design process is used by engineers to solve problems. It is used to build student confidence and is beneficial in all classes, especially math and science. In 2021-2022 95% of 7th grade passed the Design Process Certification Test.

Mr. Dority – 6th grade: Teaches the magic of electrons including electromagnets, soldering/blinkys, and microbots/rovers in Semester 1. Semester 2 consists of the science of technology including simple machines/pinball machines and CO2 cars, glue chemistry, and oil spills. He also has a bonus lesson set in the wood shop.

Mr. Stewart – 7th grade: teaches energy and environment including wind turbines, penguin dwellings, and green cars in semester 1. In Semester 2 he teaches flight and space which includes tetrahedral kites, balsa gliders, and mission to mars which is a new unit.

Mr. Kennedy – 8th grade: teaches intro to engineering design which is a high school credit class. Curriculum includes project based learning and computer aided design/fusion 360, 3-D printing, geocities project, and an automaton project.

Testing for Engineering: 6th and 7th grade teach semester courses so there is an EoC exam for each semester as well as Design Certification Test. 8th grade has an EoC at the end of the year that covers the entire year.

We have an Engineering Advisory Board that is made up of local community members in the engineering field – comprised of retired engineers, business owners, college professors etc. 3 goals of the advisory board are to verify that instructional content is accurate and valid, to provide teachers with assistance and class support, and provide service to the school/community.

We also offer the Makers Club, STEM Club, and Young Inventors Challenge.

Social Studies – Mr. Schlierer:

Mr. Rumaker – 6th grade: US History which covers colonization of America through the Civil War. He uses a variety of interactive activities, simulations, and projects to enhance the curriculum. He works closely with ELA department for writing as well as with engineering to complete cross curricular assignments. There is a mid-term and final exam for 6th grade history.

Mrs. DeTurk – 7th grade Civics: Curriculum which covers government topics including citizenship, the constitution, branches of the government, laws, voting, etc. She uses a variety of strategies to enhance the curriculum including analyzing historical documents, organizing new content with graphic organizers, small group collaboration etc. Students take PCS Cycle Assessments at the end of each quarter as well as the EoC for Civics in May. ELMS has been #1 in the district in passing rate of the Civics EoC every year averaging between 94% and 100% consistently whereas the district and state both average between 64% to 76% in comparison

Mr. Schlierer – 8th Grade Pre-AP World History: Curriculum focuses on concepts and skills that have maximum value for high school, college, careers, and civic life. It builds the students' essential skills and confidence to prepare them for high school course work (including AP Human Geography and all 3 AP courses). To enhance learning they use evidence based writing, hands-on activities, and a college level research project (NHD). Mr. Schlierer works closely with Mrs. Wheaton (ELA) with reading and writing skills to provide consistency in what is expected and how they are assessed. Final Exam data shows ELMS 8th graders performing #1 in the district each year.

Science – Mrs. Lee:

Mrs. Lee – 6th Grade Accelerated Honors Science: Incorporates all of the 6th grade standards along with ½ of the 8th grade standards. In Life Science students learn about cells, organizing life, and body system interactions. In Physical Science they have an intro to chemistry unit, acids and bases, force and motion, and the structure of matter. In the Earth Science students learn about weather and climate. 6th grade had an 88% proficiency score (C or better) on the December district wide exam.

Mrs. Fye – 7th grade Accelerated Honors Science: : Incorporates all of the 7th grade standards along with ½ of the 8th grade standards. In Life Science they learn adaptations and natural selection, heredity and reproduction, ecology, and energy and life. In Earth Science they learn earth's layers, the rock cycle, plate tectonics, formation of the earth, earth/sun/moon system, the solar system and the stars. In Physical Science the learn about energy transfer and waves. 7th grade had an 86% proficiency score (C or better) on the December district wide exam.

Mr. Heppe – 8th grade Comprehensive Science and Physical Honors Science (9th grade HS credit class): In Comp Sci students learn the following: Physical science consists of Properties of Matter, Structure of Matter, Chemical Changes. In Life Science they learn about energy and life. In Earth/Space they learn Earth/Sun/Moon, the Solar System, Stars & Galaxies. In Physical Honors Science students learn Matter, Chemical Structure of Matter, Acids & Bases, Heat & Temperature, Fundamental Forces, Newton's Laws, Law of Conservation of Energy, Waves, Cycling of Matter, Electricity & Nuclear Energy. 8th grade averaged 96% proficiency (C or better) on the December district exam. On the 2022 SSA state test 8th grade scored an 86% proficiency.

ALL Grades: Data chat with team & administration, examine data from the district, identify patterns & trends, and developed a targeted plan for 2nd semester. They also revisit various standards as they relate to the 2nd semester curriculum topics as well as increase the frequency & complexity of student-designed investigations. They use a team-based approach providing extended learning opportunities, ESE support, AVID strategies, as well as the many extra-curricular clubs offered.

4. Principal Update

5. New Business

6. Old Business

6. Open Discussion:

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 AM, and the next SAC meeting is scheduled for 2/14/2023 at 8:00 AM