

2018 SIT Monthly Summary

Noble Middle School

November 14, 2018

KUDOS

1. 6th grade lunch transition is even smoother now with dismissing bottom lockers first everyday.
2. Love the "new student" group by guidance! Way to bring kids together who may otherwise feel a bit lost in their new school setting at Noble
3. SHOUT OUT: Ms. Ulrich rocks as the new TA!
4. Thank you so much to all of the clubs that have been inclusive and welcomed in new students- MathCounts, Science Olympiad, etc! Also, I think FCA is a great addition to our club options!
5. Great teamwork, empathy, and patience! Overall support for each other and our students is noticed and appreciated.
6. School spirit!
7. The variety of extracurriculars that the students can be involved in. Great job advisors & coaches!

BURNING ISSUES

1. Communication about kids returning to a teacher at lunch time: Kids are frequently telling the lunch duty teachers that they need to go back to somebody's class to make up a test or do something, but they rarely have a pass. Without a pass, we don't know if the teacher is really expecting the student.

SOLUTION: Either have the students write a pass (with name, date, and class) for the classroom teacher to sign, or make some generic passes on cardstock and laminate them. This way the teacher on lunch duty doesn't need to make the call whether to allow the student to go back to class.

- **Please remember to give passes to students. Thought was put into possible walkie-talkies for each "pod" of classrooms**
2. To help the front office, when you have a sub, please print off your Homeroom roster to be used for attendance, not your 1st period roster. In many cases they are not the same roster.
 - **Please add your homeroom roster to your sub plans**
 3. Hallway monitoring.... still not seeing many people in the halls between classes
 - **It is every teacher's responsibility to be in the hallway during transitions. If we all do this, when someone needs to use the restroom or something comes up, there is still sufficient supervision**

- 4 7th grade lunch dismissal. Students are being dismissed from the blacktop/cafeteria at different times. Students on the blacktop are being released 3 to 4 minutes before the cafeteria. This leaves classrooms unattended because we are often still in the cafeteria and don't know they have already been released.

SOLUTION: Add a bell at 12:15 that would release the 7th graders at the same time from both locations.

- **When looking at the master schedule, there is an overlap in the 7th graders leaving lunch and the 8th graders beginning lunch. 7th grade must be dismissed at 12:14 in order to prevent the two grades mixing.**

- 5 Accommodations Lab Schedule when third and fourth period are combined (pep rally/early dismissal/delay schedule days. With elective/pe teachers having duty during third period, it makes covering lab difficult to do while you are on duty.

- **Mrs. Buchanan will look into this**

6. Not enough time in the school day to get work done that takes great concentration and focus.

SOLUTION: Would it be possible for Admin/Custodial Staff to open the school one Saturday morning a month for teachers and staff to come to school for a work session? Possibly start in Jan.?

- **Mr. Smith will consider opening the building on a Saturday towards the end of each nine weeks. Please remember, if you communicate with the administrators, they can work with you if you need the building open on a different day.**

7. Lack of a platform for students to voice concerns - there needs to be a process (anonymous or not) for students to share observations, ideas, etc.

SOLUTION: Provide students with a quarterly "open forum," perhaps after school, where any student can share concerns with school staff; create a "Concern/issue bin" in a centralized location or one in each classroom; form another student advisory group, much like PAC, but with students.

- **Noble Website now has the link to a feedback form for students. It is very similar to the SIT Feedback form.**

8. School dances be better organized and details advertised to parents more clearly and with more advanced notice

SOLUTION: More volunteers to help with dance planning and advertising, not just a couple of staff members (perhaps a dance committee); post dance details at least 2 weeks in advance on all online Noble communication sites (Noble website, Facebook, etc) -- details were

shared several days in advance on school announcements, but parents won't hear those details like cost, times, attire, etc

- **Dances are a huge undertaking and the more staff able to assist in the prep and planning the better. Please see Prudhomme or Mazzaglia if you are interested in helping.**

9. Too much "touching" in the hallways...the halls are overcrowded but we need to stress "hands to self" more regardless of the nature of the relationship between students (not just inappropriate touching, but also playful touching)

SOLUTION: Pink tickets for inappropriate hallway behavior

- **Pink tickets are now available in the main office. Please place completed tickets in the Dean of Students box.**

10. If students are expected to dress according to NHCS policy, why aren't the teachers held to the same standards?

- **Please see the staff handbook regarding dress code or speak with Mr. Smith regarding any concerns.**

11. Could we start a field trip fund that would allow us as a school to raise money to help cover the cost of field trips for students who need it? (I know that the 8th grade field trip to UNCW may be a bit different than other field trips, but I feel like it was asking a lot to ask every 8th grader to pay \$25 if they want to go. I know of several students who felt like they had to say right away that they didn't want to go because they knew their families cannot afford it. I know that we have had "scholarship money" to help with some of the cost, but I don't feel like it is enough and I was even told that it was not enough to cover the cost of everyone who might need it. I have seen this happen with field trips in the past as well.

SOLUTION: It would be great if we could start having an Islands fundraiser night (and other locations as well) maybe once a month, for example, and make it clear that the money raised would be used to help pay for any upcoming field trips as needed. Could we also have a donation bucket at PTA meetings or other school events where people could donate if they want to? That way, we could be collecting money more often throughout the year instead of just right before an upcoming trip. I also feel like calling it a "field trip fund" instead of "scholarship fund" would help parents and other people understand exactly what the money is going towards.

- **Your first resource is PTA. Reach out to them and consult with Mr. Smith**

12. Enrichment

- **Was not discussed at this meeting**

OTHER ISSUES FOR NEXT MONTH?