

Summer Professional Development Highlights

September 3, 2019



Sustainability

Children's Environmental Literacy Foundation (CELf)

- Town/district "Love Your Food" grant enabled six elementary and HMX teachers to participate in CELf Summer Institute for Sustainability
- Outcomes include development of Green Tigers Club Action Plan at HMX; integration of school gardens into curriculum; local field expeditions (e.g., Science Barge in Yonkers); and sustainable classroom practices.

SEL and Mindfulness

- Mindfulness for Ourselves and Our Students two-day course (facilitated by Liz Slade)
- Exploration of major trends in mindfulness in education
- Core text: *The Mindful Education Workbook* by Daniel Rechtschaffen
- Practical techniques for finding calm, managing stress, developing compassion, and building focus

Technology

Elementary (facilitated by Jesse Dancy)

- 5th Grade teachers developed new curriculum in digital skills, literacy, citizenship, and robotics
- Integrated with literacy curriculum; taught by teacher in classroom with support from computer TA
- Parent letters developed

Secondary (facilitated by Mike Sammartano)

- New tools for creating and consuming content: augmented and virtual reality, communication and collaboration with Flipgrid
- Cohort model: Mike will support teachers in implementation across the year
- Podcasting (with Evan Madin): recording process, storytelling, scripting, and interviewing

Physical Education and Health

- Further development of MHS Senior Experience in Physical Education piloted in 2018-19
 - Project-based, blended learning experience
 - New technology will enable students to maintain a fitness portfolio
- Revision of 8th Grade Health course to meet new standards and focus on mental health, social media use, and vaping

Elementary Schools

- Kindergarten literacy curriculum calendar revision
- Math workshops on number strings and other promising approaches
- Responsive Classroom week-long seminar
- Reimagining Education Conference at Teachers College focused on racial equity in education
- RULER team planning including teacher-led faculty workshops
- Professional readings focused on culturally responsive education

Student Support Services

- New core vocabulary curriculum for elementary 8-1-2 classes
- New middle school health curriculum focusing on hygiene and sexuality topics for students with significant and complex developmental disabilities
- ESP team conducted transition outreach; met with parents and students to plan proactively for school year
- Alignment of Transition Academy curriculum with vocational experiences and assessments for developmentally disabled students aged 15-21 years old
- Development of fidelity model for Transition Academy to teach, assess, and support hard and soft employability skills essential to post-secondary success
- Social workers launched inquiry into optimizing and systematizing support for at-risk families
- Launch of new Special Education Evaluation Team
- Revision of Occupational Therapy practices and schedules to maximize effectiveness

Hommocks Middle School

- Dos Caminos curriculum design in Dual Language Arts and Social Studies
- Capstone Project revision based on faculty and student reflections
- Unified Arts revision
 - Course outlines for new STEAM 6,7,8 sequence
 - Develop framework for new 6,7,8 Family and Consumer Science sequence culminating in new Food Ed course in 8th grade
 - Infusion of design thinking principles and problem-based learning opportunities across UA curriculum in keeping with new standards

Mamaroneck High School

- Workshops with David Levy of Facing History and Ourselves to prepare for 4-week, integrated English/Social Studies unit for all 9th graders:
 - How does our identity shape the way we see ourselves and others? To what extent does our identity influence the choices we make?
 - How do the choices people made in the past impact the present? How might the choices people make today impact tomorrow?
 - What can we do with others and on our own to confront racism and discrimination?
 - What power do young people have to chart their own course in life, shape their communities, and change the world?
- Professional book groups focusing on facets of culturally responsive teaching
- Planning sessions for new teaching teams in English as a New Language, French, and Integrated Co-Teaching

New Teacher Orientation

- Large cohorts of first, second, third year teachers
- Blend of building-based and district-wide programs
- Mentoring program for first-year teachers
- Focus on priority topics
 - Knowing children “in the round”
 - Mamaroneck history and values
 - Skillful teaching
 - APPR and mini-observations
 - Technology tools
 - Culturally responsive and sustaining pedagogy
 - Mindfulness and self care

AND...lots of
Self-selected reading
Self-directed learning via podcasts and other media
Professional networking
Travel
Reflecting, Recharging, Planning...

