

REACH Parent Group AGENDA

9:15-10:15, FRIDAY, January 11, 2019

Elmhurst Public Library (The Kossmann Room)

In attendance (24): Patti Berner, Brenda Gorman, Sarah Jensen, Vanessa Paoli, Bojana Carey, Daphne Stepanich, Becky Jacob, Patricia Glosner, Pam Hamil, Deb Lee, Renee Pas, Beth Hosler, Jodi Pinkerton, Brian Mahoney, Glenn Melvin, Sharon Wangler, Rita Dianati, Cathy Devine, Naoko Ostermann, Jane James, Lisa Kloet, Laura Koukas, Abby Stuller and Ann Rimington

Friday, Jan. 11, 2019 REACH PTA Meeting Notes

Parent discussion on transitioning REACH students into high school.

Notes here were tracked as the discussion continued.

Notes from mom of current 9th grader and 8th grader:

- She has an, every other week tutor that helps whichever student needs help that week. One piece of advice: study skills. Didn't seem as necessary in middle school for her son. How to use flashcards and actually "study" and finish tests in time was a struggle.

Notes from Deb Lee,

D205 Director of Curriculum & REACH Coordinator:

- Enriched and advanced have the same weight, the difference comes in the computer programming piece. The enriched/advanced algebra trig honors (class) has more coding so it moves at a faster pace.

Notes from mom of current senior:

- Another mom says to consider your student's senior year. It's hard to change the pathway once you are on it. When you take biology honors as a freshman, on top of many other honors, her advice is that if your student is not excellent at study skills it will hit them like a ton of bricks by junior year. She says to count on one hour a night for every honors class. What she found was that the "executive functioning" skills of organization and time management were lacking for him---and this was a straight A smart kid that never had to study in middle school.

Notes from mom of current senior and freshman (and a retired school principal):

- Agrees that the executive functioning piece is huge in the transition to high school. She feels entering college world, she's finding her kids need at least 7 AP classes (selective college) and she feels like starting AP as a freshman in high school is a critical piece. She did comment that the transition to high school for her second kid was easier than her first, not sure if that's because of a change in the coursework or just different kids.

Notes from mom of current senior:

- Know that the AP classes are a higher-paced class. She feels like the rigor is important but not at the expense of the GPA.

Notes from mom of 4th and 6th grader:

- Commented that not having homework at the elementary level currently seems like it might make it harder for those kids as they go through the education system and then have to navigate high school without having ever had to juggle that.

Notes from Deb Lee:

- Pointed to research showing that homework at the elementary grades are not really that effective. Working at high school level to not add an extreme level of homework stress for kids. She does believe that executive functioning piece is a clear indicator for success — in life, beyond even honors classes.

Notes from mom of current senior:

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- It's easy to be selective with high school honors when kids know exactly what they want to do in life by the time kids enter high school, but many do not know. Hard to reverse the trend once they start. If not sure, easier to start slow and then excel as high school continues.

Notes from dad with current freshman and junior:

- Summer programs, even just in band and orchestra, helped both his kids feel good and comfortable in the school. Being in the building prior was good for them. Know that the first week will be filled with anxiety. Also, look into the "growth mindset." That is hugely important as a success factor.

Questions on the difference between honors bio and regular bio:

Answer with input from 3 different moms: Kids in the honors bio do more learning at home, watching videos and reading at home and then apply that in the classroom. If you have a child that tends to get behind that is a tough class to catch up. Honors bio is more in-depth and at a faster pace. Regular bio is an overview, honors digs deeper. Honors bio tends to be deemed one of the toughest honors classes at York. Tons of memorization and new terminology, for example parts of the cell.

Questions on the difference between Adv/Algebra/Trig Honor vs. Enriched Adv/Algebra/Trig Honor:

Answer with input from 2 different moms: Kids that love math, already want to be actuaries, get excited about math club, go for it. Otherwise the non-enriched level is still very rigorous and some feel "less insane."

Recommendations from the group that can help with study skills and executive functioning:

Dr. Bozeday <http://rnbc.org/>. Has presented to REACH Parent Group in the past regarding [executive functioning](#).

Cornell Note-taking system a good one to learn. Some links regarding this tool:

<http://lsc.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Cornell-NoteTaking-System.pdf>

https://luc.edu/media/lucedu/advising/forms/Study_Smarter,_Not_Longer.pdf

<https://www.northwestern.edu/academic-support-learning/academic-strategies/find-strategies-for-success/taking-great-notes.html>

Also, check out the COD summer catalogue for possible study classes:

http://www.cod.edu/academics/high_school_students.aspx

Updates/Upcoming District Events

- Jan 15, Sup. Coffee, 7 pm, Jefferson
- Jan 17, 7 pm SERG, Parent Panel for Navigating Transitions, D205 Offices
- Jan. 30, noon,-1:30 GPS (Glenbard Parent Series): Rachel Simmons, Enough as They Are: Helping Teens Move Beyond the Impossible Standards of Success, Free
- Feb 6, 6 pm SROH Summer Recreation Open House, York
- Feb 9, 6 pm, 2019 D205 Foundation Gala, Hyatt Lodge Oak Brook
- Feb. 13, 7 pm REACH #2 of 3 Parent Info. Mtgs., Math Pathways focus, Dave Beedy, STEM, Sandburg (**note date change**)
- Mar 13, 7 pm REACH #3 of 3 Parent Info. Mtgs., New to Reach, Deb Lee, Sandburg (**note date change**)

Helpful Links (from PTA Council):

- [Master Facilities Plan Update](#)
- [Summer Maintenance Plan](#)

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Updates/Upcoming from D205 Foundation

2019 Foundation Gala: Saturday, February 9th 6:00 pm Hyatt Lodge Oak Brook

Next REACH Parent Group Meeting – February 12th (The Kossmann) at 9:15am (2nd Friday.)

REACH INFORMATION - Can be found [here](#) at our D205 page.

Thank you to Renee Pas for taking meeting notes today!