

Notes from the September 10, 2014
DPC Meeting 10:00 Lakota Central Office

Butler Tech/Vocational Training

- All courses should be easily accessible to all (both campuses)
These courses provide that hands-on, exploration to help guide kids. They find out whether they want it not.
- Add one (1) semester exploratory courses – example: Home Maintenance
Some current two (2) year offerings (like Auto Repair, Cosmetology, etc.)

How are we helping market this with our own?
☆☆☆Agreed! Yes This is great More exposure Yes! Success stories!?
Work to remove stigma associated with the trades (not all kids need to go to college)
All classes could model Sportsmed/Engineering – Butler Tech Classes
Or kids can still go to college after tech experience! I second that!!!

- Make Lakota trade students desirable employees

Tech Education

- CAD relevance
 - Pre-engineering/Architect classes
 - Butler Tech
- Entrance limited Expanded App. Design?
How does this tie into internship?
 - At Risk?
Students
- Where is this leading our students?

Incorporate more into other subjects

Math

Math – Pretty cut and dry – Math is Math
Too complex of diagram without explanation – Need seminars in sixth (6th) grade to offer in-depth knowledge of courses
Needs – Explanation of levels (CP/Honors/AP)
Explain to parents BEFORE tracks set in fifth (5th) grade
I agree with this – Parents don't know to be thinking about this so soon – YES!!!
Need to educate principals/teachers @ elementary level to help parents

- Model needs to possibly be less restrictive
Kids are being forced to fit into a certain path with little opportunities/little flexibility within the bell schedule

- Enough (possibly) classes offered but not enough time to actually take – Student has a very limited time frame (opportunities) to explore all subjects

☆ Why only AP states? How can you work this into business offerings?

- Advanced courses dictate the tract/not fair to all students that they are cross-pollinated
i.e. – Why does the Advanced Math dictate a science course (foundation needs to be there but limiting opportunities)

Show kids, with everything taught, how it applies to everyday life

Creative and Performing Arts

<u>Music</u>	<u>Theater/Acting</u>	<u>Visual Arts</u>
No room in schedule to fit any additional - Concert - Jazz } Being forced to choose (could be after school like junior highs)	Acting focused only } Theater Intro } Acting I, II, III Wish for set design, production, sound/lighting/makeup More to theater than acting – Some kids may like the behind the scenes and see that as a future	General overview! – Wish we had more of these across categories
Ideally – Composing/music theory, etc. as overview course		Options offered appear strong and enough advanced levels to build portfolio for art school
Band should not be a block		Graphic arts (design) (touched in tech ed) → Need an option to modernize curriculum *Web design → Maybe covered enough in Butler Tech Is this socially acceptable for the college track kids? → Dual credit options with local art program?
Choir		
Wish for Show Choir (singing and dancing)		
Get rid of Fine Arts I being a prerequisite for <u>everything</u> i.e. – Photography, pottery Shuts out opportunities for choosing electives in last year or two (2)		
Music ONLY department that doesn't offer AP Course!!!!!!		

Physical Education

- Yes, still important
- State requirement for graduation
- Necessary for less active kids
- Motivates and inspires

Needs/Changes

- Make more relevant
 - Like - Add stress management to required course
 - Offer classes for students that aren't sport oriented – I agree!
- Offer additional more relevant courses
 - Like – Yoga, Martial Arts/Tai Chi -----Yes!
- Reduce focus on obscure sports
- Eliminate Recreational PE in favor of more relevant electives
- Could PE credit be waived if after school/extracurricular sports are taken?
 - Way to certify outside programs
 - Dance
 - Local Sports
 - Martial Arts
- All sports should count as gym credit
 - Agree – Many kids spend 12+ hours a week in club sports but high school so big they can't always make varsity teams!

Business

Economics is under social studies

Cross reference related subjects (on course guide)

Absolutely agree – Need credit report information, check book, mortgage, wills, retirement severely lacking in adults – Know this as mortgage professional

Four (4) Offerings

Course 1

* Good

Finance – Personal (State mandate? If not, should be requirement – I agree)

Course 2

▲ Change

Sports Marketing (Market demand? Flooded market?)

* Other areas: Too specialized?

- Healthcare/Other fields
- ◁ Marketing – More general needed
- ◁ PR, Communications/Social Media

Course 3 and 4

? Good, but...

Venture Highway

(Entrepreneurship)

* Does this need foundational business course?

What about?

- General Stats – Non AP
- Accounting
- Finance
- General Business Overview

* Important add

Family and Consumer Science

1. Students using as “Easy A’s” or fillers
May not even be aware classes exist or have time to utilize (limitation of six (6) bells)
 2. Classes could spark unknown passions – i.e. Culinary School
 3. Some curriculum could be combined or seminars – i.e. High School 101 and College and Beyond
 4. Life and Relations – Possibly too many topics
 5. Possible addition
 - Time Management
 - Financial Literacy****Yes, very needed Love this Yes, Please, (This is under Business as separate → Too involved for most kids maybe as a business offering! Personal – Combine Finance, Life Skills, Time Management as one (1) course
 - Life Skills
- Love***
- Philanthropic Contributions
 - *Project Planning/Implementation – Yes!
 - Study Skills (Could be offered in 7/8th grade)
Could this be done in study halls or advisory?
Best before high school, start in 5/6th grade – Mandatory (I agree)

Health

- Two (2) courses +
Anatomy/Philosophy, + Family/Consumer Science + PE + Bio Med + Sports Science
- Comfortable with current offerings in conjunction with other curricular areas
- Can't this be combined with PE requirements?

Computer Science

Current – Three (3) courses, I, II, and AP

Future – Comp Science I – Has diverse applications now – Offer at freshman school

Needs ability to take CS I basics into more specific areas – i.e. graphic design, med, gaming

Split CS II into two (2) semester elective courses – Allow pursuit of individual interests

Start Computer Science curriculum earlier – Yes, I agree

Classes offered to explore the more graphic/artistic design program – Would love this!

Put this as more modern art program and not necessarily as a computer science course

Foreign Languages

- 7th and 8th grade offering – Not after school
(Possibility?) Need ability to take in junior high
- Latin to prepare for future languages

- Want: Mandarin
Arabic
Options?
- Online? (In school online) Really hard
If in school with some supervision and peer support not so hard
Outside of the box
- Summer?
- Travel a broad – Credit Flex?
Internships
Foreign travel I don't want to pay for that as taxpayer = Optional
- Connecting students to their interest/passion i.e. German
- Limited options for SWD
Example: Spanish 1-A
1-B

Social Studies

1. Current curriculum
 - Make it relatable to students now
 - Past – How it compares to now
 - How past affected how things are now
2. Current Affairs Course (Covered AP Government)
 - Today's events
 - How's today's events can change tomorrow
 - How an event affects different aspects of life (Ex: Economics, war, cost of goods, society, constitution, conflicts)

Advanced social studies should not rely on advanced Language Arts
Teach how the kids can affect societal change

English

- Need better course descriptions that specify skills students will leave with
- Note state mandates
- * (Agree) All students need to know how to communicate different ways in different forums (i.e. formal business, casual communication, sales, friends, etc.)
* Real world communication skills (Take speech class! Good one! Especially with social media
Does our current curriculum meet this? It's not clear in descriptions

Steam²

- Looking at doing classes in one semester vs. two semesters
- Keeping the curriculum current because it changes quickly

- Adding internships* and creating college resumes/portfolios/hands on experiences to make students marketable or competitive

☆ Introduction course – Encompasses all different avenues of engineering. Ex: Civil, electrical, chemical, architectural, etc.

* Internships could be introduced across other programs – Offered last couple of periods so students can still work, extracurriculars, etc. Make it easier to switch tracks.

Science

- We feel offerings are appropriate
- Delivery needs to be the focus
 - Hands-on (I like more hands-on)
 - Real world experience
 - Internships expanded – More internships in all areas, not just STEAM
- Butler Tech programs
- Don't lose sight of lab work

Bigger Picture Career Planning

↳ Role of parent

↓
Applies to all subjects

Kids need opportunity to try stuff

Experimental, especially: career/college

↳ More semester than whole year

Different kinds of kids affect curriculum

Challenges to generalizing a curriculum

State Has Mandates (vs. what colleges want)

So choices are limited after that

What are other high schools doing re: Number of bells?

Both affect the curricular decisions

Loss of high school bell affects all of this and emotions

Language of “college prep” vs. “advanced” might change college admittance

Will Eighth (8th) Grade “College” Classes Work for:

1. The kid being ready
2. College application

The curriculum has to be tailored to specific target student groups

- Gifted
- Special needs


2X

More Overview Classes

To touch on a lot

To let students explore first

Delivery is key

Families need to understand the delivery work  More communication and involvement

Make It Easier to Shift a Specific Student's Approach

Start these conversations sooner
Especially on career/life track
What about special education?
More options earlier (Junior High)

Why Are Some Classes Only Offered as A.P. ex. Euro History

Academic Opportunities

- More academic classes offered during summers
- Scholarships possibly offered so all students can participate
- XH Bell → Utilize the time appropriately
Possible additional class (online course?)
- Ensure XH Bell is being used academically
- Shift focus from (solely) College Prep to possibly opening avenues to Tech College/Two (2) year degrees/etc.