

Hershey Middle School BAT Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2023

Mr. Valentin started the meeting at 9:00am and 13 people were present. The meeting agenda was shared.

- Assistant Principal Search Update
- Three Building Priorities / Goals
- Understanding SEL at HMS
- Additional Information

Mr. Valentin shared an update on the Assistant Principal Search.

- The Board approved Michael Galloway to be the new Assistant Principal.
- Mr. Galloway is currently the Dean of Students at Central Dauphin East High School. He has served at a special education teacher, work experience teacher and a health and physical education teacher during his career. Additionally, Mr. Galloway has had a successful career as a track and field coach. Mr. Galloway brings over fifteen years of experience in public education.

Mr. Valentin shared the Three Building Goals / Priorities BAT and update schedule

- PLC - October, February
 - Use Dedicated PLC time to allow teachers to collaborate in job alike groups around curriculum, assessment, instruction, intervention (REACH) and acceleration through the use of student data.
 - Common Formative Assessment & Essential Learning Targets for Every Unit
- SEL - November, March
 - Use the Midday Meeting Format To Help Students:
 - Navigate Middle School (The Secondary Education World Is Different)
 - Improve Social Relationships (Collaboration Is Key)
 - Enhance Executive Functioning Skills (Be A Great Student)
- Equity - December, April
 - Creating an instructional environment that levels the playing field by meeting all students at their need level and helping them to find academic success through the use of Multi Tiers Support Systems (MTSS).

Mr. Valentin started the November SEL update with a video clip, "What is SEL"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikehX9o1Jbl>

This video clip helps to explain what social and emotional learning is and why it is important.

Following the video clip Mr. Valentin shared information on how they are incorporating SEL into HMS

- COCOA Class 6th Grade
- WEB Program

- Mid-Day Meeting

Mr. Valentin shared a presentation on Mid-Day Meetings adapted from the presentation given to middle school faculty created by Katie Weaver and Jason Petersen.

- What Is Mid-Day Meeting

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1iTcuvtRCy3f_NP6jXuuAUIIGP8_CzDRgD7traAHl1xY/edit?usp=sharing

MID-DAY meeting is a non- academic time. We did take feedback seriously. You will notice new and different activities as well as a shift - - there is a large emphasis on reflection and discussion.

Why MID-DAY Meetings?

- Creates a break in the day to shift thinking
- Provides a tech-free time
- Establishes a climate of trust
- Motivates students to feel significant
- Creates empathy and encourages collaboration
- Supports SEL, particularly self-awareness
- Provides opportunities to develop Career Ready Skills

These are the goals of Mid-Day meetings - we share these with students often so they are aware of the WHY. Teachers may use technology to present the outgoing message of the day, but students will not need technology at all during MM time.

At Hershey Middle School, we are committed to providing the opportunity for students to learn employability skills, as well as develop competencies that allow students to successfully navigate relationships within their family, school, community, college and/or career. Mid-day meetings have been designed to incorporate the PA Career Ready Skills Standards into our everyday teaching and learning at HMS. Students will participate in activities that empower them to reflect on their strengths and grow with support in the areas of:

- Sense of Belonging
- Self and Social Awareness
- Self-regulation
- Empathy
- Collaboration
- Responsibility

Notice all of the listed skills in the left column are all SEL skills and competencies. We will be spending time connecting the PA Career Ready Skills and SEL competencies in greater detail throughout this school year.

For example: Practicing mindfulness strategies and techniques can feel uncomfortable at first. This is OK and expected. Teachers have a short discussion with students about this. Breathing exercises and mindfulness techniques are skills that take practice - not skills you are born with. Students can expect to feel increasingly more comfortable with continued practice.

- Example of specific feedback: 'I appreciate that you are looking at ____ while he/she is sharing.'
- **We want to encourage as much social interaction and connection as possible. Mid-day meetings should be a time to be technology free.

Mr. Valentin shared that Mid Day Meetings are themed by marking period.

- Self-Awareness and Responsible Decision Making
- Self-Management
- Social Awareness
- Relationship Skills

Mr. Valentin shared some additional information on the upcoming Turkey Trot.

- We have started preparations for the 2023 HMS Turkey Trot which will be held on Tuesday, November 21st.

The Turkey Trot involves three main components

The Turkey Fashion Show & Pep Rally

A 2.2 mile fun run/walk

A food can donation drive (largest single donation for the Hershey Food Bank each year)

Mr. Valentin concluded the meeting at 9:30am.