



MIDTOWN CLUSTER ADVISORY TEAM 2022-2023 MEETINGS 1-3 RECAP

CAT Members				
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AGENDA/INFORMATION

Cluster Planning-Meeting 1

- Background: All CAT Meeting [Presentation](#)
- [Cluster Plan](#) Work:
 - Step 1: Identify Priorities for 2022-2023: **Completed 9/19/22**
 - Priority 1: (STEM Implementation) Leaders ensure that all stakeholders have ongoing opportunities to access information and learn about STEM implementation
 - Priority 2: Build cross-cluster engagement opportunities for students, staff, families, and neighborhoods
 - Step 2: Develop action steps that your cluster or each school in your cluster will take during the school year that will lead to accomplishing each identified priority
 - Step 3: Agree on benchmarks for action steps

Notes:

- Grady CARES: donations to schools, supporting families
- Midtown Cluster Band Night: huge participation, great, homecoming
- Cluster Night: phenomenal, getting together and building community
- Falcons Friday (Hope Hill, 10/21, 1pm)
- Midtown Cluster: need for conversation/problem solving on use of stadium...one metal detector, one ticket taker...unsafe (10/7, student injured). [Travis Norvell](#)...happens with home team (regardless of school), backs up 2nd games....[Maureen Wheeler](#)connect with State Safety assessment, may help with traffic patterns
- HHES: Community Engagement (Walk and Roll to School, ended with parents giving input on sidewalk/safety improvements) (Screen on the Green @ Howard) (Trunk or Treat)
- MES: Parents & PE (parents participating during PE, getting new parents)



- ML: Walk to School Day, Family Movie Night (10/21)
- SPARK: Walking School Bus Fridays, 10/31 walk in costumes, VaHi Candy Crawl 10/26, STEM Night (Star Lab, funded through PTO, inflatable planetarium), declared desire to become STEAM with state, upcoming fun run & red ribbon week
- Centennial: Winter Coat drive
- STEM COntference: 10/24 week
- HHES STEM Lab up and running (STEM advisory board working on mission/vision)

STEM

- STEM certification, STEM lab, STEM journals, STEM coordinator helping bi-weekly PBL, STEM Advisory Board (HHES)
- STEAM ambassadors across grades, meet regularly (SPARK)
- STEM olympiad competitions (SPARK)
- Partnerships with KSU for PBL activities (SPARK)
- Midtown Cluster Teachers: STEAM PL (woodruff, high, etc)...some of the best PD
- Checking on STEM vs STEAM...start with STEM mindset then add Arts
- Confirm requirements on STEM: targets
- Are program specialists meeting cross-collaboratively? monthly (Maureen)
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Cross-cluster

- Continue Arts cross-cluster collaboration (band, chorus, art, dance)...Fine Arts night
- Cluster-wide science fair
- Cluster STEM night/event
- JROTC Robotics/Drones

New elementary school impact

- STEM, cross-cluster engagement



Cluster Planning-Meeting 2

[Cluster Plan](#) Work:

Priority 1: STEM Implementation: Leaders ensure that all stakeholders have ongoing opportunities to access information and learn about STEM implementation.

- Work to ensure every school has the foundation in place for STEM certification (professional learning, ambassadors/advisory board, STEAM labs/materials/resources)
- Facilitate monthly meetings with school STEAM program specialists across the cluster

Immediate Next Steps:

- Principal Wheeler will jumpstart the cross-cluster STEAM conversations
 - Scheduled for the year
 - One held already (SPARK)
 - STEM ambassadors (select ambassadors and visit SPARK)
 - Each school hosts monthly
- Travis will reach out to the district STEM coordinator for expectations in the first year

Priority 2: Build cross-cluster engagement opportunities for students, staff, families, and neighborhoods.

- Be inclusive of all schools in cluster events. Band/orchestra cluster events should include dance.
- Cluster STEM event planned by Midtown HS students and STEM Signature Program specialists
- Basketball Cluster-wide event (include cheer and dance teams from elementary schools and Howard)

Immediate Next Steps:

- Schools should keep in mind all schools in cross-cluster events
- Dr. Bockman will explore the Basketball Cluster-wide event
- Dr. Bockman and STEM specialists can explore a cluster STEM event

12/8 Ideas:

- Midtown Seniors visit the new MES, walk the halls with the kids at Inman property
 - Sofianos to contact Mr. Vincent
- Looking at how to share great instructional practices across cluster (P. Brown)....organizing for March maybe

Notes:

Mary Lin: first district walk-through (went well); band/orchestra (12/8); holiday concert (12/7); still in the process of figuring out numbers (legacy, 50% have responded, reaching out); MAP completed; progress toward STEAM certification (Professional Learning); Foundation raising funds for STEAM/Gifted PL (conferences); annual holiday breakfast for staff; science fair

Midtown HS: STEAM certification progress (great coordinator); group reads on project-based learning; fine arts department focused on STEAM; 32 students qualified for GA Honors; 4 in the running for Posse; Saturday School (4 sessions, 150 kids, 12-17 teachers...biscuits, coffee, informal, common areas, 11th/12th tutoring younger) started



this year to help lower the failure rate; Shoutout: great student design and support from art department to Winterfest (VaHi)

Howard MS: Principal Search underway (Tier 3 completed, excited about candidates), new hire announced in January (if stay on schedule), 3 finalists (completed walkthrough at Howard today with Dr. Matt Smith), now go to Dr. Herring; instructional learning walk completed (great visit, great teaching & learning, left with clear next steps)

Hope-Hill ES: MAP testing complete; focused on data talks (identified need for dyslexia training...and for teachers to support those students who have ADHD tendencies); trauma-informed practice training (social worker/behavior analyst loved it and will redeliver); one of two elementary schools to participate in Atlanta Ballet dance day (so excited); chorus/dance (12/16 AM); STEAM full force (selecting STEM ambassadors- checking out SPARK, SEEK partnership-20 girls from HHES creating business plan and creating products); PTA-monthly new parent tours; GaTech (1/9)

SPARK ES: no device day; STEAM home kits; working on STEM recertification to the State; looking for upcoming STEM conferences; hosted first cluster STEM coordinator meeting; STEAM ambassadors (went on first field trip to GATech and shared exciting things); discussing Georgia Pre-K; SPARK community day for new and existing families (tour, chat, arts & crafts); fair (inventions); new AP (Sara Pruett?); chorus (12/8)

Morningside ES: Band/Chorus (12/8); chorus next week; after-school tutorial; starting mentoring program (in-house, looking to expand with partner); heavy in STEAM (gingerbread design (K); native american homes (3); STEAM activity kids for asynchronous); focus on transitions in 2nd semester (make sure kids and teachers are ok); science of reading (looking at literacy program); Professional Learning Communities (PLC) activator - 11 groups; honoring current community as it exists; move admin by June 1

Va-Hi ES: meeting almost 70 teachers from SPARK, MES, ML; multiple tours to teachers and parents; 12/10 Tour (5 different times); calling families to answer questions on legacy (250 students qualify as legacy or legacy siblings, 93 have not made a decision); meeting with facilities/safety/C&I/tech/VaHi/etc; met with graphic designer (logo, branding); 12/13 (6:30pm, family Town Hall; 12/14 (8am, coffeetalk); recommendations for hire upcoming

- communicate meetings? PTO's are pushing out from SPARK/MES; robocalls/emails/texts; updating the website

Centennial:

Kindezi O4W:



Cluster Planning-Meeting 3

[Cluster Plan](#) Work:

Priority 1: STEM Implementation: Leaders ensure that all stakeholders have ongoing opportunities to access information and learn about STEM implementation.

- Work to ensure every school has the foundation in place for STEM certification (professional learning, ambassadors/advisory board, STEAM labs/materials/resources)
- Facilitate monthly meetings with school STEAM program specialists across the cluster

Immediate Next Steps:

- Updates: STEAM ambassador field trip
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Priority 2: Build cross-cluster engagement opportunities for students, staff, families, and neighborhoods.

- Be inclusive of all schools in cluster events. Band/orchestra cluster events should include dance.
- Cluster STEM event planned by Midtown HS students and STEM Signature Program specialists
- Basketball Cluster-wide event (include cheer and dance teams from elementary schools and Howard)

Immediate Next Steps:

- Updates: