

**North MS School Accountability Committee
10/12/26 Meeting**

Welcome and Introductions

-Attendance:

Stephanie Leasure

Jessica Gemm

Elizabeth Harris

Elaina Rasmussen

Kumeko Norris

Kate Kidder

Alli Klein

USIP - Unified School Improvement Plan

- Have to finalize this time of year because of CMAS data, accurate STAR data (it's created at the end of the previous year)
- **USIP Focus 1:** Aligned Instructional Model (AIM) is new this year, rooted in research - Visible Learning; e.g. what impacts do things like school leadership, note-taking, and many more have on learning. Not working through all of it - taking it piece by piece, making it a point of emphasis to commit to some specific things. Gives a common language to use with staff.
 - Baseline visit from Instructional Empowerment to schools - some schools have been working with them for multiple years, others have done so because they are in turnaround. Visited 15 classrooms at North, looking across the whole year of instruction. Out of 48 schools rated, North was in the top 10 in 4 of the 5 categories of learning, highest rated school in the central area. Categories: conditions for learning, ____, student teams, verifying learning, tracking student progress. Struggled in some larger classrooms this year to make space for student teams. We are on a right path from the beginning.
 - Areas of focus: standards-based learning targets posted or in a notebook where students can reference, and from that come success criteria which helps students be clear what the expectations are. Also the statement of inquiry for IB to come back to as an essential question. If those are in place, we have done planning well.
 - Digestible chunks: 15 minutes at a time, students process their learning, either written or verbal. Checking for understanding, and tracking that for every student
 - Working with teachers on teaming when students are ready for that (don't want only 2 of 5 participating).
- **USIP Focus 2:** Focus on 7th and 8th grade math growth, and 8th grade ELA; took a step back last year. 6th grade is doing really well in both ELA and math growth; 7th grade ELA is the highest across the board.
 - Meeting with those teachers weekly, working intentionally to create specific plans with them. Using data more in PLCs to build in more accountability.

- **USIP Focus 3 - MTSS:** Have had “kid talk” every week going back to the previous principal - all 6th grade teachers together, same for each grade. Could be problem-solving, help with students. This year, using it more for tracking. Better prepared for how we are intervening for kids. Separate academic focused kid talk, and one that is multi-tiered system of support (MTSS - behavior-focused support), so we can do the right interventions for the right needs. Helped us stay more focused, and can track the data with more fidelity how the data is impacted by the interventions. Interventionist this year working with kids on the cusp of the next level of growth, been really successful so far.
- The three parts of our USIP were essentially dictated to us, but they are best practice and the right focus areas for this year. Not required to have an enrollment goal as some schools are.

General October count number - and Catalyst update

- Don't have a firm number yet, finishing the follow-up for kids who weren't there on October 1.
- Having a field trip for 8th graders mandated for that day wasn't great - some families opted out. Have given feedback about that.
- Attendance was about 95%.
- Have only 7 students in Catalyst, 704 on the books but two new started today. Probably will end up around 710-711, projected at 651. Overage of around 50 kids, largely in 6th grade.
- What that means once the number means is an extra \$5500 for each overage kid, \$255k total added to the budget. Hired new math teacher who started today. Still an ELA teacher posting open. Those two teachers would add up to about \$200k.
- Hired Jennifer Hinojosa who's a veteran teacher from Denver, colleague of a North team member. New 6th grade counselor started today as well, really excited to have him to be able to focus on those kids. Were able to compensate the other counselors for covering the last few months as well, and for Rebecca Hibbard for taking a 6th grade math class.
- Q: Do kids in Catalyst count for North? A: They are each attached to school they came from. 40 total in Catalyst, only 6-7 from North.
- Q: How is Catalyst going? A: It's going well, honeymoon is over, kids are itchy for a break, and there are behaviors before and after breaks. Some things to be worked out.
- Q: Are there a lot of multi-lingual learners in Catalyst? A: Would have to check. At North generally, only have about 25 who have no to limited English proficiency; most are in the higher levels of proficiency. Catalyst has done more significant testing across the board to see if there are more needs for MLL or SPED support.

Conferences

- Happening this week, did our best to try to create a schedule to work for different needs - early mornings, walk-ins Thursday night (a bit of a challenge to get staff used to that), and scheduled on Friday.
- Will feed staff Thursday night. Tricked out snack cart Friday!

- Proactively made phone calls to students and parents they need to see - the ones they are most concerned about. First year have been able to do that more strategically across the board.

Update on academics

- New science curriculum for middle school next year - will put options out for public comment this year. Seeking teacher feedback on that curriculum, as well as administrator. Want common assessments that are experiential, data-aligned. Want materials, ideas for experiments, what kids can do with their hands.
- New social studies curriculum is okay content-wise, but doesn't include common assessments so teachers are having to create those from scratch.
- Moving the very small sex ed piece to PE from science.
- After the break, 6th graders are going to Challenger Learning Center - over the course of 4 days, will be the first time we've gone in a number of years. Will be a little disruptive right after break.
- Peak experiences:
 - 6th grade peak experience is a lunar challenge in January - all 6th graders from D11 in one place.
 - 7th grade peak experience TBD, in May
 - 8th grade will have a second peak experience in personal finance through Junior Achievement, simulation at Wasson.

Update on technology shift

- Sharing of Chromebooks is going well overall
- Still some damage, but significantly less than before
- Unless there is a targeted reason, we aren't running everything through Chromebooks. Seeing a lot more writing - and it seems we need to do that! Seeing that happening at the high school level as well - lots of hand writing, taking notes.
- Some teachers are really proficient at running classrooms electronically, consistently engaged. For others it's less efficient, and this has been a good change.
- Been great at lunch and at recess that they don't have their computers!
- Every grade level running tutoring at lunch, so they need to access Chromebooks then. Each class has a day, teachers get paid for leading the tutoring.
- If kids have used their time effectively in class but haven't finished the work, they fill out a form to take a Chromebook home.