

Gifted Program Review Update – 3/28/14

1. Developing a vision and mission statement

A committee of about 20 individuals (11 parents, 3 students, 9 teachers, 2 curriculum coordinators, 1 psychologist, and 7 administrators) came together for a few hours on March 27th to go through a process focused on identifying the key components of a ‘mission statement’. This was facilitated by JoAnn Perotti of BCIU. Discussion revolved around three guiding questions:

- What do we do?**
- How do we do it?**
- Who do we do it for?**
- What value are we bringing?**

The group also identified ‘beliefs’ and ‘shared values’. A smaller committee will be brought together to work on condensing these beliefs and shared values so that the language is meaningful and succinct. The newly devised mission will then be forwarded to the larger committee for input. Following this, a finalized version will be made available for all to view. The mission statement and the accompanying shared values and beliefs will be an important guide as we address the recommendations of the Gifted Program Review.

2. Infusing math in the elementary program

The math specialists and the elementary gifted support teachers continue to meet to develop lessons and activities which infuse mathematics into the curriculum. The current focus is on grades two and three.

3. Improving programming at the middle level

We are in the midst of staffing for the 2014-15 school year. The district is committed to staffing in the middle schools such that there is one dedicated teacher of the gifted at each grade level. We will shortly begin the process of meeting with teachers to compact the social studies curriculum, beginning at the 7th grade level. This will be extended to 8th grade the following year. This will allow gifted learners to move more rapidly through the curriculum. As a result, we will offer opportunities for in-depth, small-group and independent learning focused on an interdisciplinary exploration of themes, issues, and ideas. This will be facilitated by the social studies teacher via consultation with the district's curriculum coordinators. We are also planning to incorporate a seminar approach which will bring experts within our district community into the classroom several times a year to present and lead discussions at an advanced level on areas of interest to our students.