



Parent Advisory Committee Meeting

MINUTES/NOTES

DATE 8/18/2023

TIME 5-7:30 PM

1. Meeting Start Time 5:10 pm-Welcome & Introductions
 - a. Lead Teacher: Remington Waters
 - b. Learning Center Coordinator: Julee Dudley
 - c. Principal: Jenny Bonilla
 - d. Sharing of the agenda/topics

2. Cycle of Improvement
 - a. We want to ensure parents are aware of how our students are doing in terms of a few success metrics. During our cycle of improvement we found that the average student progress for the first school learning period last year was 84% versus this year, we were able to reach 92.3%. Then for our credit completion, our students on average completed 2.48 credits in the first school month, versus this year, they were able to increase to a minimum of 3.4. This demonstrates that our students are making great strides in growth for both success metrics. Our goal is to reach between 90-100% student progress every learning period throughout the year, alongside reaching a 4.0 credit completion average. The next metric we have here is our core vs elective percentage. While we do not have the percentage for our first learning period just yet, we are trying to exceed the percentage we reached last year, which was 64%.

3. Student Success Reminders
 - a. Reminder that students that are completing 1 credit each week, are completing 26 credits per semester, which is 52 credits in 1 year. This pace actually sets them back by 8 credits in a whole year, that is why we encourage our students to do more than one credit each week. If your student completes 2 credits per week, then they are completing 104 credits in 1 year. This pacing allows students to catch up on credits; they are able to earn 44 additional credits in one year than their counterparts attending a traditional school setting. Lastly, if your student is highly motivated, they can even work at a faster pace by turning in 3 credits each week. At this pace students earn 156 credits in 1 year, meaning they are completing 96 more credits per year than their counterparts in traditional school. This pace allows students to get caught up with credits they were deficient in and can even help a student graduate at a younger age.

4. Student Expectations

- a. We want to take this opportunity to remind you of student expectations so that you can support us in ensuring your student is in compliance with these.
 - i. Pacing-As we just spoke of, the pace that students turn in credits is extremely important to ensure they graduate in an adequate and timely manner. Please remember that students must complete at minimum 1 credit per week.
 - ii. Attendance-Also, students must attend at minimum one hour every week with their supervising teacher. This school appointment is every week at the same day and same time. When you attended orientation, that meeting was scheduled according to the teacher's availability. We do have approximately 600 students that attend our school, so it's extremely important that students are responsible for attending when they are scheduled and not outside of those school hours.
 - iii. Time Management-Our students are expected to do school work every day for at least 4-6 hours each school day. While students are not attending a traditional school where attendance is mandatory everyday, our students are still expected to do school work every day for several hours of the day. How do we know that the student is putting in the time...well if they are turning in their assigned work...the one credit minimum each week, than that demonstrates that they are utilizing their time wisely. It's important to note that we are an independent study school; students sign up because they want to learn more independently and that requires that they do the majority of their school work at home.
 - iv. Advocate/Ask for Help- Although we are an independent study school, that doesn't mean that we are not there to support our students along the way. We want to encourage you and them to reach out and advocate for themselves to ask for help whenever they need it. Even though they are not here everyday, there are ways that we can support them over the phone and at the very least community resources or virtual tutoring opportunities we can share with them. While not always guaranteed or available, we can also schedule additional time on campus, etc.

- b. Academic Opportunities on Campus
 - i. Dual Enrollment- Our students are able to take college classes for free in our program, please ensure to ask your child's teacher for a list of course offerings soon to begin. These are ongoing throughout the year, so even if they don't get a chance to enroll for one session, they certainly can apply for other upcoming courses.
 - ii. Pathways Trips- Another opportunity for our students is that they can take trips to different parts of our country, within the state and even internationally. The next trips are a college tour in Southern California and for graduating seniors who are in good standing to Catalina Island. On these trips they do experiential learning activities and they even earn credits on the trips. Again, please be on the lookout for these advertisements or flyers from your teachers or on our Learn4Life Connect

parent square. We send an email every Sunday night to communicate with you.

- iii. CTE-Career Technical education is also a program we offer our students. They can take courses in graphic design, IT, and even culinary arts. Most of these CTE Pathways take place either virtually or at our other Learn4Life campuses, so our students would have to travel there, but it is well worth it. Our students take a series of classes in the pathway of their choice and at the end of the pathway, they earn certifications that they can use as they begin their careers after high school if they so choose. Some of these certifications are only accessed in college, but our students actually have access to them within our high school program. You can obtain information about these programs here today at the Block Party. Our teachers have a booth set up to sign you up on their interest lists. Make sure to stop by their booth for more information.
- iv. SGI-Small Group Instruction classes. These are small group classes that we offer our students. We have math, english, electives, arts, and spanish classes. These small group classes meet either once or twice a week anywhere between 2-4 hours each time. If your student is having trouble learning independently, then we also offer these courses as a way for them to have direct instruction from a teacher in a classroom setting and within a small group of students. In traditional school, students are in classrooms of 28 or more students. Here there will typically be between 8-12 students in an SGI class. There may be times that your child's teacher will enroll a student in SGI because they are struggling with learning on their own or they may be testing low on our reading and math nwea tests, which means they can benefit from the SGI classes more than learning that subject matter independently. Once enrolled in those classes, students must attend consistently and they also must work at an adequate pace...just like in traditional school there's a certain amount of work they must complete to earn their credits within the classes. In addition to their SGI classes, students are still required to also work on other coursework independently with their supervising teachers. These classes are offered all throughout the year, so please let your child's teacher know if you are interested in enrolling. You'll also have a chance to meet with the SGI teachers during Parent Teacher Conference days every semester.

c. Upcoming Events

- i. Trunk or Treat- Please join us for our annual Trunk or Treat event, which will be held on October 27th from 5-7:30.
- ii. Parent Teacher Conferences- These will be held November 6th through the 9th, so please save those dates. It is very important that you come to find out how your child is doing so that they are on track to graduate and work at an adequate pace. You'll also get to hear about the SGI, CTE, and dual enrolment opportunities so that you can enroll students in those classes as well.

d. Title 1

i. Title 1/SARC- It is important that you are all aware that we are a Title 1 school, which means that we are provided funds to support students in our community. (Passed out Title 1 infographic to parents) On this infographic you'll get some pieces of data, our demographics, and information regarding how we are using the Title 1 funds for our students. Please take a moment to look at the data. You'll also find some of our SARC report data and our LCAP Goals. I'd like to share the LCAP goals that we have set out for ourselves this new academic year. The first is increasing academic progress, we want our students to increase in their levels of achievement. We also want students to gain skills for college and career readiness, which is why we will be strengthening our counseling program and adding a new counselor to our team, ensuring that we have a good ratio for student to counselor at the school. We are also providing ongoing college and career programming to our students; we started with our grade level rallies in June this year. Next our goal is to increase student retention. We do fairly well in ensuring our students stay enrolled in school with us or if they leave, that they enroll elsewhere and don't drop out, but we do want to increase the number of our students who decide to stay with us to graduate. We have many interventions and resources in place, but sometimes the independent study setting can be challenging, so we are strengthening our program by having high expectations and providing support as needed to ensure our students can be successful within our program. This is also why we want to continue to involve you, the parents, to help us make our independent study model more effective all around. We need your input and feedback. Please take your phones out and scan the following QR code. YOU'll be asked a series of questions for feedback to make improvements to our school. We also want you to help us in deciding with a vision statement our school should adopt and what value you would like us to utilize as one of our pillars of conduct.

e. Next Meeting date- Thank you for attending and just so you are aware, we will be hosting our next meeting before our Trunk or Treat event on Friday, October 27th. We will be sending you a flier via Learn4Life Connect parent square and you'll see our event plastered on social media. SO please join us at our next meeting. It'll be a fun evening...we'll meet and then you can enjoy treats, prizes, and activities for the whole family.

f. Adjourn- Meeting ended at 7:30 pm