



**February 9, 2023
Member Meeting
6:30 PM**

1. PTA updates/events

- a. No Big Flea this school year - space to house materials ahead of time wasn't able to come together, despite many efforts to find alt options
- b. New community events
 - i. Soccer Saturday, Saturday, April 22
 - 1. For all MVCS families, hosted by MVCS PTA + Padres Activos, with generous support from Alexandria Soccer Association
 - 2. 10a-12h (Rain date: Saturday, April 29)
 - 3. Soccer fields @ Four Mile Run (behind Casa Chirilagua)
 - ii. MVCS Mile Run - Spring 2023, likely May. More details to come!
- c. Bingo nights coming up, February 17 + March 11
- d. Teacher appreciation via food for teachers during PT conferences

2. PTA financial updates

3. Dr. Burrell, and Ms. Siminski - school testing data

- a. General thank you to everyone involved in helping with testing, instruction, assessment and supporting students and families
- b. Acknowledged that the nurse is here, part of attention to need for attendance as part of successful academic/social engagement
- c. Primary Assessments - Not just SOLs
 - i. District Testing (in addition to unit tests and summative/formative classroom assessments)
 - ii. PALS (k-2)
 - iii. Measure 3 x /year
 - iv. Fall, Mid year, Spring
 - 1. Phonological Awareness Literacy
 - a. Decoding

- b. Encoding
 - c. Understanding and use of language
 - 2. Development of fluency and comprehension in reading
 - 3. Individual Task and summed (overall) score benchmarks; teachers use this to inform instruction
 - 4. Interventions
 - a. If kids don't meet benchmarks, interventions used throughout the year
- v. VKRP (K)
 - 1. Fall/Spring
 - 2. CBRS (K)
 - 3. EMAS (K)
 - 4. Formative/summative testing
- vi. Ability tests
 - 1. 1st grade Non verbal test
 - 2. 3rd grade cognitive ability
 - a. Verbal
 - b. Qualitative
 - c. Non verbal
 - i. Scores on each + composite score (occured early in the year)
 - ii. Nat'al percentile rankings, help to give sense of general benchmarks
- 3. MAP
 - a. Computer Adapted Text (questions get harder/easier depending on if they answer the previous question correctly)
 - b. Measures growth over time, see what strands students are ready to learn next (what standards that students mastered/understand and where they are ready to build next)
 - c. Rounded ; percentile
 - d. Fall, Winter, Spring
 - e. Helps to inform instruction and allow for personalized learning
- 4. WIDA
 - a. English Language Learners
 - i. Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking
 - ii. Measures growth over time, how are EL ranging in proficiencies
- 5. Dual Language - STAMP (2, 5 - April 2023)
 - a. Spanish language proficiency
 - i. Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking
- 6. Science Curriculum Benchmarks
 - a. Grades 3, 4, 5
- 7. Virginia Growth Assessments
 - a. Grades 3-5
 - b. Math, Reading
 - c. Shorter than SOL

- d. Measures current grade level content standards
 - i. Ex: fall testing, kids haven't yet been taught everything on test b/c of when it is paced throughout the year
 - e. Vertical scaled score
 - i. Range - not a pass/fail
 - ii. Number
 - 1. Looking for growth over time
 - iii. Formative - meant to inform instruction, adapt instruction accordingly
 - 1. Student Detail By Question (SDBQ)
8. SOL - Standards of Learning, May 2023
- a. 3rd Grade: Reading and Math
 - b. 4th Grade: Reading, Math, VA Studies
 - c. 5th Grade: Reading, Math Science
 - i. Students receive a pass/fail
 - ii. pass/proficient, pass/advanced, fail/basic
 - iii. Opportunities to retest

4. Questions re Assessments:

- a. Re: helping students learn test taking strategies: Teachers work with students to practice test taking strategies throughout the year; built in tools as well as strategies for breaking down questions/addressing. Practice tests, mock SOLs, help to ease anxieties and take away feelings of high stakes
- b. Why send results home? District policy - you can also ask for email report home
- c. What happens if student fails? - can retake, have interventions
- d. How does MVCS compare - school is looking at this, comparing against other schools
- e. Are 5th grade Spanish assessments shared with middle school dual language teachers? Yes, shared with dual language program teachers at GW
- f. Where can I find school-wide scores?
 - i. School wide scores are on website/DOE
- g. Possible to move the Spanish proficiency to January
 - i. Test is cumulative, which is the reason for April timing - it allows students to show what they know
- h. Emphasis on not just teaching to the test. Its about critical skill building that can be applied to standardized tests.
- i. Also provide guidance lessons from school counselors; help alleviate anxiety for those students who feel that acutely at testing times

5. Nurse Malone (School Nurse)

- a. School Board Policy/Attendance
 - i. Accreditation and attendance are linked
 - ii. Back to following VA law as it was before Covid 19
 - iii. If student misses 3 days b/c of illness or 10 total days (full school year), parents must submit a medical note (healthcare provider)
 - iv. Allows for it to be excused
- b. Truancy = 5 (more) unexcused absences

- c. Chronic absenteeism is 10% of school year missing (can be excused/unexcused)
This comes from the state; attendance critical to student academic/social success
- d. Actions start at the school level
 - i. If medical, start with Nurse Malone
 - ii. Goes up with subsequent actions

6. Ms. Barajas

- a. Chronic Absenteeism
 - i. 24% chronic (8 days or more)
 - 1. Sickness, travel are main causes
 - ii. Keep family trips to school calendar
 - iii. Focus on what families can control; need everyone to help ensure that students can get to school
- b. Outreach for those families who are most impacted
 - i. Ms. Barajas reaches out, works to set up meeting with family as needed
 - ii. Truancy officer may come in if results don't get improved
 - iii. MVCS tries to be proactive in reaching out to families where they start to see patterns of absenteeism

Q to Dr. Burrell: How are teacher positions looking? Only have one vacancy, now covered

7. Ms. Kessinger - technology updates, Trex challenge

- a. Plastic film recycling
 - i. Send plastic bags to school with child/ren
 - ii. Students weigh plastic as the bins get filled
 - 1. Trex uses plastic as part of materials to use in their products
 - iii. Keep momentum up; please continue to bring in!
 - iv. Sign up for bringing in plastic bags to Giant entrance is on sign up genius
 - 1. January - March 17:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0b49afaf28ab9-plastic#/>
 - 2. March 22 - June 2:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0b49afaf28ab9-plastic1#/>
 - v. What can be recycled? Soft plastics that can be a little stretched; cannot accept certain bags (chips, frozen food bags, net/mesh produce bags, pet food bags, candy bar wrapper
 - 1. Note that these reminders were sent home, try to avoid putting the non recyclable items in
- b. TIE at school
 - i. Parent tools: Power school and canvas
 - 1. Parents can create power school accounts go get access to grades, attendance, lunch, test scores, contact info
 - 2. Also power school is path to Canvas
 - a. Canvas app for parents doesn't work for ACPS
 - b. Have to use power school to get into Canvas
 - 3. Canvas = learning management system
 - a. Post zoom links in the event of need for zoom school for inclement weather/emergency

- b. Course information, activities
 - 4. To make power school account, need student's access info sent out at beginning of the year. Form is available through acps technology website
 - ii. Securely
 - 1. Students
 - a. Filters content on chromebooks at school
 - b. Provides parents a portal for monitoring online activity outside of school (middle/high)
 - 2. Parents
 - a. Options to configure rules/flagged activities while at home
 - 3. Website to get securely account set up via acps technology website
 - iii. Common Sense Media
 - 1. Common Sense certified district; MVCS certified Common Sense school
 - 2. Teach digital citizenship
 - 3. Give resources for families; in addition, resources for families outside of "common sense schools" is available via commonsensemedia.org
 - a. Note that there is also a spanish language version of the website
 - i. commonsensemedia.org/latino
 - iv. Kajeet
 - 1. For families that need wifi/digital access at home for those what needed
 - a. 6am - midnight
 - 2. check out period; vary from weekend to several months
 - 3. Does filter content
 - 4. Request a kajeet via school administrator
 - a. Kajeet - small device that lap top/chrome book can connect to
 - v. Blended Learning
 - 1. Tech Use Guidelines
 - a. Educational purposes
 - b. Balanced against non tech
 - 2. Clever
 - a. Most apps that students use (RAZ kids, Reading Eggs, Dreambox, WE video, Seesaw)
 - b. Single sign on
- 8. Thanks for attending! Next member meeting will be Thursday, March March, 9 at 6:30 PM in the MVCS cafeteria.**