

Morinville Community High School Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

School Administrative Team Report

Be a yardstick of quality. Some people aren't used to an environment where excellence is expected.

Steve Jobs

Welcome to the first January School Council Meeting of 2015. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to attend these meetings so that together we can learn and grow as a community. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you this year to make a positive difference in the lives of students, parents, community and staff. Our hope is that we will discuss and revisit various topics throughout the terms as this document serves only as a starting point for discussion and action. As such, this report serves as a very brief introduction to a number of topical areas that will be examined in substantial depth over the course of this school year.

If you have any questions/feedback/suggestions/advice, please contact us prior to the February meeting or bring your discussion item to the February meeting.

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Best wishes for the Christmas season and a Happy New Year (considering that we are three weeks into the new-year)

January is a little different, with the late start and then the jump immediately into studying and exams...leading to a re-start with semester 2.

Thank you for being able to make the time to be here with all of us this evening. Please encourage friends and neighbors to attend and participate in School Council so that together we can learn and grow as a community.

MCHS is an excellent school and we are committed to continue to improve. The following is a brief historical update of what has taken place to this time. It is our custom at each School Council Meeting to share a report in this type of format for your review and consideration. Our hope is that we will discuss and revisit various topics throughout the term as this document

serves only as a starting point for discussion and action. This report serves only as a very brief introduction to a number of topical areas that will be examined in greater depth over the course of this school year.

Faculty Changes for Dual Credits - NorQuest College

We have not yet heard who the NorQuest instructor will be for the ENGL 1011 course that starts the first week in February. This person will be named in the next number of days and will be introduced in the February General Newsletter.

This is a dual credit program that allows qualified Grade 12 students to earn university credits and high school credits for the same course. In ENGL 1011, students will earn 3 regular university credits and 5 high school credits. This is an exciting opportunity for our students.

We are the only high school in Canada that offers a university level English for high school students.

English (ENGL) 1011 (3 regular university credits) – Course content addresses three main genres: novels, essays, and short stories. Content will include two novels: one from the eighteenth century and one from the nineteenth or twentieth century. This course transfers directly to MacEwan University and the University of Calgary

Dual Credits

Transferring these ENGL 1011 credits to universities other than MacEwan University or the University of Calgary is possible, however it is not assured. Each institution is a unique entity, though basic courses such as the two above are common to all. The best way to determine if a course can be transferred to a different institution would be to contact the Registrar at that particular post-secondary.

An excellent source of information is the Alberta Advanced Education and Technology website link to the Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer (ACAT), found at:

<http://alis.alberta.ca/ps/ep/aas/ta/sta/search.html>

Completion of this course would not guarantee admission to degree programs at universities or colleges. Admission is competitive. There may be limitations on the number of students admitted to the degree program at each institution. Colleges/Technical Institutions will generally accept each other's courses for transfer provided the courses are applicable to the program

transferring to and have been successfully completed with an acceptable grade. However the final determination is made by the institution the student is transferring to, usually once the application has been made.

Our intent with offering ENGL 1011 is to make our graduates as competitive as possible, by ensuring that their applications to post-secondary are more attractive. Even if the university or college is outside of the direct transfer agreement (i.e. University of Toronto), the fact that a high school student has completed a university course while still in high school will make their application more noteworthy than it may already be.

School Fees 2015-2016

We have received the GSACRD Fee Schedule for Basic Fees and there are no changes from the current school year. The MCHS elective and compulsory course fees are projected to not change for the 2015-2016 school-year, except for the Students Union Fee (up by \$5) due to increases in the program costs, inflation and increases in outside costs in this opportunity.

We have attempted to keep this increase as reasonable as possible. Please see the included Fee Sheet from 2014/2015 to see what the current fees are.

School Council support for the proposed MCHS Fee Sheet is requested.

Exam Schedule

Right now, students are writing exams, Diploma Exams (that are scheduled and regulated by Alberta Education), final school course exams and mid-term exams. We have a total of 14 Diploma Exams, 34 school course final exams, 7 mid-term exams and 6 course review sessions scheduled for this part of January. It is a busy time and students need to be prepared.

Diploma Exams are strictly regulated by Alberta Education and are worth 50% of the student's final mark in that course. All Diploma Exams are couriered to Edmonton and are marked there. Students will be directly mailed their final course marks by Alberta Education and they should be in Canada Post around the second or third week of February.

Rock the Diploma Exam Preparation

We have been fortunate to be able to offer Biology 30, Chemistry 30 and Math 30-1 at MCHS through RTD. Students from all over the region have been able to come to MCHS for this.

Facilities Update

Over Christmas we had new flooring installed in the hallway in front of the Graphics Lab and through CTS. The current plan is to finish the flooring down the senior hallway and by the gym during the summer break.

On January 5 (at around 4:30 am) we experienced a ruptured water line to a radiator, upstairs in 202. The water came through the ceiling and into the library, which we had to close for two days to repair. We lost approximately \$2300 worth of books, though our computers and furniture was saved.

Parent Volunteers – Thank You!

MCHS parents and guardians need to become a much bigger part of our school culture. With your enthusiasm and energy we can do so much. The opportunities for involvement are endless and the abilities, knowledge, expertise and time that volunteers provide can only enhance the opportunities for our youth.

General Newsletters – Ideas and Suggestions

We look forward to your comments and suggestions regarding possible information items and articles for the MCHS General Newsletters. Our intent is to inform our stakeholders and strengthen community relationships. We also welcome information items from community services agencies in the newsletter as a further way to communicate in the greater community. School Council suggestions are welcome as we work to foster open communications.

MCHS School Discipline Report -

For the Period of August 31, 2011 to January 13, 2012 there were 47 suspensions earned by students.

For the period of August 31, 2012 to January 21, 2013 there were 38 suspensions earned by students.

For the period of August 31, 2013 to January 20, 2014 there were 22 suspensions earned by 20 students.

For the period of August 31, 2014 to January 20, 2015 there were 20 suspensions earned by 15 students.