

Morinville Community High School Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 19, 2016

School Administrative Team Report

Creativity is a messy, time-consuming process, which involves lots of trial and error and can't be rushed.

Unknown

Welcome to the first January School Council Meeting of 2016. 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.

Todd Eistetter – teistetter@gsacrd.ab.ca

Wade Michael – wmichael@gsacrd.ab.ca

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 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 Addition for Dual Credits Through NorQuest College

The NorQuest instructor for the ENGL 1011 is Jean Richardson. The course runs Monday/Wednesday during block 5/6. Right now, it looks like we have 15+ students registered for the class, who have met the pre-requisites for admittance by NorQuest. This is a very strong number and we are happy with the student interest and the significant opportunity that this provides for them.

This is a dual credit program that allows qualified Grade 12 students (those who have already completed English 30-1 or 30-2 and have strong marks and work ethic) 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 one of only two high schools in Canada that offers a university level English for high school students, the other being Bishop Carroll High School in Calgary.

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, NAIT, etc), 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.

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 13 Diploma Exams, 32 school course final exams, 7 mid-term exams and 13 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 30% of the student's final mark in that course (new this year from the 50% in previous exams). All Diploma Exams are couriered to Edmonton and are marked there. Students will be able to directly access their marks online through Alberta Education provided that students have previously registered for this on **mypass.ca**, which is an Alberta Education application.

High School Redesign Update

Over the past few months we have been looking at PACK Day and how it functions, in comparison to different models used by other schools. PACK Day is somewhat unique to MCHS as few high schools use this format, though many junior high schools in Edmonton Catholic use a similar format one day a week.

Looking at what other high schools do, we are looking at the number of opportunities that students have for extra help, or one-on-one time with teachers. We need to look to see what is possible and if there are ways that we can improve the opportunities for this that our students currently have.

We have been in contact with various other schools to talk with them and walk-through their schools to see what is happening in relation to what they are doing. These schools include: SACHS, St. Peter the Apostle in Spruce Grove, Louis St. Laurent in Edmonton, Bellerose and Harry Ainlay High School in Edmonton. We have also contacted Paul Kane, who is not part of the redesign project, to gather their perspective on this. Over the next few months we will be talking with faculty, students, School Council and visiting other schools to see what is possible.

The purpose of these discussions and school visits is to determine if the potential increase on one-on-one time that other re-design models that use a flex block, would assist to improve the Accountability Pillar results for MCHS. As discussed at the October 2015 meeting, the results for MCHS declined in certain areas (i.e. PAT Excellence, Diploma Excellence and Diploma Exams Participation Rate – 4+ exams written).

Facilities Update

Over the coming spring break we are scheduled to receive new carpeting in the Graphics Lab, which is something that we are very appreciative of.

MCHS School Discipline Report

- August 31, 2011 to January 13, 2012 there were 47 suspensions earned by students
- August 31, 2012 to January 21, 2013 there were 38 suspensions earned by students
- August 31, 2013 to January 20, 2014 there were 22 suspensions earned by 20 students
- August 31, 2014 to January 20, 2015 there were 20 suspensions earned by 15 students
- August 31, 2015 to January 19, 2016 there have been 18 suspensions earned by 14 students

Programming

Over the past five years there have been a number of changes or additions to programming at MCHS that have developed through the ideas and efforts of many people. The information provided below is not exhaustive.

Urban Agriculture Program

This is a course that was developed at MCHS by Neil Korotash for first use in September 2013 and from our research we are the only school in Alberta that is offering this type of program. It was created using a number of CTS modules that are grouped together to offer students ‘a ground to table’ food learning experience. The course has been very successful and has generated significant student and community interest. Some of the highlights of the course have included:

- Learning how to extend the growing season by constructing and using cold frames to grow a variety of produce
- Growing fresh herbs hydroponically for sale at Morinville Sobeys
- Visiting local chicken, pork, egg, dairy, and grain farms
- Chicken and pork butchery including sausage, bacon, and ham making and pork sales
- Farm to table cooking classes including homemade pasta, cheese, bread, canning and pickling

The CTS modules used for this course are:

- AGR1050 Plant Propagation – Seed selection & planting (indoor / outdoor)
- AGR1055 Gardening
- AGR1910 Project A – Design & build cold frames and/or greenhouse
- FOD1010 Food Basics (need to collaborate with Foods classes)
- FOD1070 Farm to Table
- FOD3090 Butcher Shop
- FOD3110 Food Processing

In the two full years that MCHS has offered this program, we have collected approximately \$25,000 in grants for students to research use of different lighting fixtures in hydroponics, purchase of equipment and the design and creation of an outdoor classroom.

Dual Credit University Course

In 2014/2015 MCHS partnered with NorQuest College outside of the Alberta Education/CASS funding model and negotiated and wrote a private agreement to complete an English course (ENGL 1011) as part of their University Transfer Program. In semester 2 of that year and in the current year as well, NorQuest has an instructor who is scheduled to be at MCHS twice a week for a scheduled class.

Students earn 5 high school credits for a locally developed course that our faculty wrote and was authorized by Alberta Education...English Critical Reading and Writing: Prose 35.

ENGL 1011 - worth 3 university credits from NorQuest College. These credits are directly transferable to MacEwan University and the University of Calgary in English and may be admissible at other universities for elective credits. Students and parents pay only for the course textbook and not the \$550 university tuition for the course. Students

must have completed English 30-1 and in the current year this opportunity was expanded to students who have completed English 30-2.

Through our research it appears that we were the first of two high schools in Canada that are offering a university level English for dual credit. The other high school is Bishop Carroll in Calgary.

Personal Achievement and Continuing Knowledge (PACK) Day

As part of the Alberta Education High School Flexibility and Re-Design Phase 2 Project, MCHS wanted to develop a model that was not based upon a flex block. We were collectively concerned with how a flex block may impact our student attendance, which has been something that we have worked to improve.

In 2013/2014 we worked as a faculty and met with 600 students through all classes, discussions were held with our School Council and a model was proposed in which MCHS would have an alternative programming day 4-5 times a semester. Students would register for the opportunities through PowerSchool.

We conducted a Community Conversation on January 16, 2014 and presented this to approximately 75 parents and community members, where it was well received.

Each PACK Day we offer approximately 100 different sessions over 4 blocks of time, in a variety of opportunities based upon remedial, emergent and divergent learning for students. Student session registration and attendance is tracked and our attendance is strong, over 80% participation.

We are one of only a few Alberta high schools that offer flex programming using this model.

Community Futures

Through our work with PACK Day, community interest and through Terry Maslyk, in 2014/2015 MCHS was able to partner with Tawatinaw Community Futures, sponsored by Western Economic Diversification Canada. This program was offered one day a week, afterschool for 8 weeks with a community instructor. Students were taught about small-business entrepreneurship, including business planning and marketing. Each student was able to access a \$300 interest free loan in order to begin their own small-business following a successful plan presentation.

French Immersion

MCHS has, since opening in 1994, offered French Immersion in grades 9 and 10 only, not in 11 or 12. In September 2013 this was expanded and offered to students in 9 to 12.

Course Expansion

MCHS has increased the number of different courses that we offer for our Grade 9 students:

- French as a Second Language
- MCTV – Television Arts
- Outdoor Education 9
- Cosmetology
- Fit for Life

At the high school level, we have added two courses through a partnership with the Morinville Fire Department and the Student Training Academy:

- Fire Protection 25
- Fire Department Course 35

Other high school courses have been added that include:

- Religions of the World 35
- Abnormal Psychology 20
- Technical Theatre 25/35

Summer School

In June of 2012 MCHS requested and received permission from district senior leadership to start offering summer school in PE 10 and CALM 20, in addition to the normal Work Experience that has traditionally been offered.

In July 2015 the course completion numbers were as follows:

- PE 10 – 30 (capped at this number due to off-campus supervision on field trips)
- CALM 20 – 50
- Work Experience 15/25/35 – 77

Diversity Club

MCHS led the district in the development of a Diversity Club, which by provincial legislation, district policy and procedure, is to address the societal and personal challenges faced by students.

Gender Neutral Washrooms

This desire to offer washrooms that were not gender specific was to ensure that the needs of all students were addressed. Of our 10 washrooms, 4 are not gender-specific.

Extended Learning Program (XLP)

We have expanded the offering of this program, for students who have not experienced success in a regular classroom environment. This is for students who have severe attendance or behaviour concerns and they may be scheduled to a modified schedule for afternoons or specific days of the week.

Students are scheduled into a specialized classroom and have a small teacher to student ration. In this classroom students are working on a number of different courses in a modular form, at their own pace.

Alberta Health Services Addictions Counselor

In November 2011 an Addictions Counselor was added to our faculty, scheduled at MCHS 1 day each week in a dedicated office in our Student Services Department. The time for this counselor has since increased to 2 days a week.