

Arcola Program Update

Education Committee Meeting

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June 1, 2021

8th Grade Literacy

Program Change:

- Added 45 minutes of literacy to grade 8

Goals:

- Improve student achievement

Rationale:

- ELA scores have declined over the past three years
- Growth summary score for ELA is below the state target for 2030

8th Grade Literacy

Data: Star Benchmark data measures reading comprehension

- 2021 58% of all students showed growth
 - 19/20 fall= 69% proficient and above
 - 19/20 winter= 67% proficient and above
 - 20/21 fall= 66% proficient and above
 - 20/21 spring= 69% proficient and above
- Teacher Reflection

Next Steps:

- Vertical alignment of courses/skills and review of scope/sequence
- Collaboration between Reading and English teachers to allow for integrated literacy approach

World Language

Program Change

- Restructured Level 1 language course for all students to participate over two years

Goals

- Opportunity to explore language earlier for all students
- Opportunity to build strong Level I foundation

Rationale

- Extended time in Level I allows for application and extension of learning
- Research supports earlier exposure, which allows for improved language acquisition

World Language

Data:

- Benchmark assessment given end of March in each language course for 8th grade; components of language acquisition, vocabulary, and grammar indicate readiness for Level II:
 - German 87% demonstrated proficiency
 - French 90% demonstrated proficiency
 - Spanish 93.7% demonstrated proficiency
- Teacher Reflection

Next Steps:

- Continue articulation of Level I language course
- Transition students to Level II language courses at MHS

Health and Wellness

Program Change

- Modified the Health and Physical Education course to incorporate health/wellness and Family Consumer Science topics

Goals

- Provide explicit instruction on mental health, executive functioning/organizational skills, SEL activities, mindfulness
- Maintain instructional minutes of physical activity while adding movement activities related to wellness

Rationale

- Expose students to strategies and techniques that embrace the tenets of the whole child and promote self-regulation

Health and Wellness

Data:

- Staff surveyed students post mindfulness lessons and activities

Mindfulness Strategies/Techniques	% of students self-reporting
Able to define mindfulness	89%
Improved focus overall	87%
Decrease in stress level	70%
Likely to try strategies on their own	72%
Would recommend these strategies to others	82%

- Teacher Reflection

Next Steps:

- Develop lessons to further support student mental health and executive functioning needs
- Continued data collection on impact of SEL and mental health topics

Questions?