

Grade Level Representatives Notes

Dear ECS Families and Faculty,

We wanted to let you know about a collaborative initiative amongst the school administration and Parent Community of ECS - the Grade Representatives Committee. This committee is comprised of school principals and volunteer representatives from each grade level.

The purpose of the Grade Reps program is to collect trending concerns and feedback from each grade to share with the administration with an eye toward problem solving when needed. We welcome your questions and concerns and look forward to addressing them during these monthly meetings. Feedback / notes will be shared through the room parents and can also be found online: <http://ecspco.org/volunteer/grade-representatives/>.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your Grade Level Rep or the Board.

Notes from Wednesday, April 3, 2019

CAMPUS WIDE

- School calendar for next year
 - [Find it on our website!](#)
- General update on the teachers union: Elected leaders? Negotiations?
 - Will keep you updated when we learn more.
- PCO Facebook page things to think about...
 - How have people felt about the FB page this year?
 - Need stricter rules / guidelines? Wish there was more / less moderation?
 - Some teachers on staff survey mentioned decreased morale and hurt feelings
 - Some parents frustrated too; too much complaining for new families
 - Parents do value the community connection and quick replies to questions
- Parent reactions to the Antwon Rose II day
 - Some parents felt pressure to have conversations they weren't ready for
 - Some missed the notifications and felt blindsided
 - Some had confusion of what content was shared at each age level.
 - Notes were sent home to every grade level with specifics of what was done in the class that was developmentally appropriate. Check your inbox for an email that was sent on March 25.
 - Walkout information
 - Teachers provided support and supervision for students
 - The walkout was student led- spread by word of mouth
- How does the school decide which holidays to celebrate (St. Patrick's, Holocaust Remembrance, Down Syndrome, Veterans, Chinese New Year, etc)?
 - We celebrate the holidays that are celebrated at PPS in order to follow their schedule. At times we have in class celebrations that are reflective of content

being covered.

Middle school (next year expansion): questions after the Open House:

- When is the Rogers Start time? (Start times for Park Place and Milton too?)
 - Start times were released in the expansion communication on April 10.
 - **ECS Intermediate 3-5** (Milton) drop off begins at 7:50 (start of day, 8:20)
 - **ECS Primary K-2** (Park Place) drop off begins at 8:00 (start of day, 8:30)
 - **ECS Middle School** (Rogers) drop off begins at 8:10 (start of day, 8:40)
- Specials
 - Most of our programming and routines remain in place and will not change. There are some highlights and additions to program- enhancing our offerings and utilizing newly available spaces in our three campuses.
 - Spanish is a special for grades K-8
 - Reading/English Language Arts class added for grades 6-8
 - Edible School Yard moves to a program serving grades 2-5
 - Discovery Block is a special for grades K-1
 - Kindergarten moves to self-contained model with play-based curriculum

Specials at the K-5 level are: Spanish, Discovery/Edible School Yard, Physical Education, Music, Thinking Lab (5 day rotation).

Specials at the Middle School will be a semester. Students are either enrolled in Spanish and Health (2 day rotation) or Thinking Lab, Music, and Physical Education (3 day rotation). If a student has Spanish and Health the first semester they will have Thinking Lab, Music, and Physical Education second semester. If a student has Thinking Lab, Music, and Physical Education first semester they will have Spanish and Health second semester. We are also committed to providing ways and means in which students can practice Spanish all throughout the year.

- Activity time
 - Band / Orchestra: how many days? (clarifying with Mr. Weston)
 - Each ensemble (band and orchestra) will meet once a week after-school for a 1-hour large group rehearsal. During their activity period, students will have small group sectionals to prepare for their ensemble's larger rehearsal and to work on chamber music. These small group sectionals will take place five times per week for 30 minutes. Outside of the after-school rehearsals and the small group sectionals, students will receive one 30-minute individual pull-out lesson per week.
 - How do kids pick activities? What if one session is really popular?
 - This is on our summer to-do list. Ideally, students will have flexibility to craft their weeks more frequently, so if they aren't able to join in on a session week 1, then they can participate week 3, for example.

Public Source article that came out- achievement gap

- Mandy and Ali- hosted PCO meeting around this topic on March 14
- ECS recognizes it is unacceptable. That is why they have been doing E&D work, created a strategic plan, continued communication with families, increased staff PD, and ECS is committed to changing this tide.
- Take a look at the [Future Ready PA site](#)
 - Middle school math curriculum- everyone had growth!
 - ECS uses the Eureka math curriculum
 - Using data to make whole school change
- K-5 have a separate literacy based class which is being added back in 6-8
 - Reading writing workshop are being piloted in 4-5 grade and we are considering that as middle school curriculum along others in grades 6, 7, and 8
- With expansion new roles are created that will help standardise curriculum across grade levels and schools. The curriculum directors will manage others that have specific focus areas- ex. associate directors, new special ed teachers
 - This creates consistency in the curriculum. The more eyes they have on it, the more consistent it will be.

LOWER SCHOOL

- **Kindergarten**
- **First**
- **Second**
- **Third**
 - Extra recess! Yay!

UPPER SCHOOL

- **Fourth**
 - What is PAT time?
 - Preferred Activity Time is a whole-group incentive. Students work together to earn 5-10 minutes. Often, this time is spent outside.
- **Fifth**
 - What do they do on half days?
 - Half day schedule is still an instructional day. Sometimes grade levels plan parties on holidays.
 - What is the grading policy?
 - Late work will be accepted within a reasonable timeframe. The minimum grade to be given on any assignment is a 50%. Please reach out to teachers directly for more specific information.
 - A consistent policy will be in place across grade levels and classrooms next year.
- **Sixth**
- **Seventh**
- **Eighth**