

## CDMC Meeting on February 20, 2019

4:30pm ISMS Library Agenda

**TZI Grant-** this past year ISMS became part of an in-district charter in order to keep all 5 schools in the zone a part of Waco ISD. There are two boards that govern ISMS. One benefit of this change is additional funding. We just received ~\$706,000 for our campus from that grant.

**Master Teachers-** one of the key uses for the TZI funds will be a new Master Teacher program; the goal of this program (on a district level) is to have instructional specialists (IS)s stay in the classroom and work alongside teachers instead of working in a more admin-type role.

### Interim Assessments Math and Reading

**Student Growth Math and Reading-** growth compared to last year is our primary focus as a campus. However, it is strongly noted this year that 8<sup>th</sup> grade **must** pass their exams to move on to high school.

**STAAR Mock Testing-** conducted 2/20 & 2/21, 2/20- 8<sup>th</sup> math, 7<sup>th</sup> writing; 2/21- 8<sup>th</sup> reading

**Saturday Schools-** 9 AM- 12 PM. Next Saturday School is this Saturday 2/23. Can even be used for makeup detention and attendance.

**UIL Academics 2<sup>nd</sup> Place-** received a few weeks ago. This is a BIG accomplishment and a great statement for how we perform compared to the rest of the district.

**PBIS/Student Management ISS/OSS Jackson** – trying to make Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies (PBIS) a bigger focus for our campus and having more rewards for students doing the right thing. That being said, Mr. Alexander emphasized that:

1. Universal behavior standards are a big goal for our campus – all students should have a basic level of understanding of expectations at campus.
2. All students should know who the principal is, which requires him to be visible on campus.

**Master Scheduling-Balancing classes in the afternoon-** this discussion started last week. We are waiting to get our official estimate of the number of students we will have. Some elements including possibly incorporating clubs into the school day. We are also looking at offering additional electives that may be of higher interest to students like technology classes. We want to make sure our school can be just as highly regarded and as good of quality as anywhere in town.

**Overall Attendance 94.97%: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade 171 students 95.3%, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade 181 students 95.12, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade 164 students 94.45% Total: 516 students 94.97%**

Behavior- in terms of referrals, we are at around ~300 right now, which is historically really good for us.

Attendance- we had been doing really well, however, flu season has hit our campus hard (including teachers), especially in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Custodians have been doing “bombing” to help with the issue and teachers have been encouraged to frequently wipe down surfaces with disinfectant.

**Parent Communication-Student Failures-** trying to increase phone calls home, but parents need to consistently check their student’s grades because students often will not tell parents if they are not performing well. One remedy for this is all of the tutoring we offer.

## **Tutorials 4:15pm-5:15pm: Monday-Science, Tuesday-Math, Thursday-Literacy, and Friday-Social Studies**

**Whole Day Tutoring-149 students-** this number includes both push-in (tutors who assist inside the classroom) and pull-out tutoring (students removed from class to work in a small group with a tutor)

**TASSP Making Middle School Matters Symposium-** next month Mr. Alexander and Ms. Joiner (our dean of instruction) will be attending a conference which discusses: the unique changes students experience in middle school, how to discuss healthy boundaries, and enforce expectations

**Harvard Closing the Achievement Gap-** last summer our admin team attended this excellent conference and it our admin team's goal to go again this summer to learn more about how to close this gap.

**Summer AVID-** we will be continuing to send teachers to get AVID training (Advancement Via Individual Determination)

**Technology-** the district is gradually working more toward laptops instead of iPads. We are very fortunate at ISMS to have a lot of very tech-literate teachers on campus that will assist with future technology going forward.

**Bulldog and ISMS Lettering Mural-** our gym is finally getting nicer! Since last school year we installed a new wood floor, removed some dilapidated bleachers, have started a mural (thanks to work by Mr. Fielding and Mr. Keener), and have purchased banners to celebrate achievement in athletics.

**Campus Needs Assessment (CNA)-** this is an important part of developing our Campus Improvement Plan (CIP) every year, which needs support from families and the community. This process has to be completed by March 18<sup>th</sup>. This process is at the heart of making the changes that we, as a community, want to see in our school. ALL staff are involved including custodians and cafeteria staff. Data is broken down in every category. The categories for the CNA are:

- Demographics
- Student Achievement
- School Culture and Climate
- Staff Quality, Recruitment, and Retention
- Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
- Family and Community Engagement
- School Context and Organization
- Technology

\*If you would like to contribute to one of these communities, please email [Travis Cheatham](#) to get involved.

Additional notes from the CNA discussion:

- Student Achievement- one focus is keeping the pressure on students that we have high expectations for them – students should be able to tell parents what they learned every single day
  - We are very serious with our students and hold them to expectations
- Staff Retention- This is a struggle and is a constant part of our work to maintain the best teachers
- Family and Community Engagement- one big change this year is the addition of a Family Support Specialist (FSS; Travis Cheatham)
  - A big struggle for us is engaging the community and getting buy-in. We have tried a lot of different methods for distributing information and getting people to show up, but this an area where we need more families to recruit other families to get involved.
- Technology- This adds up way faster than we would expect and is very expensive to maintain

## Closing Notes from Mr. Alexander

- [Public School Choice in Texas](#)
  - Last week Mr. Alexander and other principals from around the state advocated for increased funding for public schools
  - Texas is one of the wealthiest states, but is #41 in terms of education in the U.S.
  - This group also advocated for funding for mandatory Pre-K for all students
  - This group also petitioned the state to remove the mandate that STARR tests can hold a student back from moving to the next grade level
- Difficulties in Getting Families Involved
  - Emphasizes that this is our families' school, not our school – we are the stewards of the school
  - Family comments:
    - Ms. Thompson (parent)- “ISMS has been responsive to calls, emails, and letting me know when issues arise”
    - Ms. Dominguez (parent)- “I feel well connected with teachers”
- [Steve Harvey Video](#)- the power of belief in a student; what his dad gave to him.
  - Our students deserve more – we need to figure out how to give it to them

## Important Dates:

February 14, 2019 Valentine's Day (No Gifts, Presents, or Visitors)

February 15, 2019 End of 4<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> Weeks

February 20-21 STAAR Mock Testing

February 23, 2019 Saturday School, March 23, 2019 Saturday School, March 30, 2019 Saturday School

February 27-28, 2019 STAAR Mock Testing

March 11-15, 2019 Spring Break