

Curriculum/Professional Development

Professional Development

The final professional development day on May 13 was spent at local sites to work on finalizing MyLearningPlan (evaluations), preparing year end tasks, and planning for next year.

A survey for teacher input is being prepared. The purpose is to find out how effective our in-service time has been this year. What do we need more of? Less of? Affirmations, suggestions, needs, etc...

NWEA MAP Testing

MAP testing for grades 1-8 has been completed and summary reports sent home to parents. Next year we plan to add Kindergarten to the MAP testing schedule. *Note: Kindergarten and first grade students have audio support that accompanies the testing.*

AP Summer Institute

High school English teacher, Ron DuVernay, will attend the AP Summer Institute through UW Madison (*AP - College Board Advanced Placement Program*); he will take a one week course on English Literature.

Project Lead The Way (PLTW)

SMCS has developed a three-year implementation plan for PLTW involving SMCS principals and teachers as well as a visionary group of community professionals in STEM fields. The plan includes the following "Launch" (elementary), "Gateway" (middle school), and "Pathways" (high school) program components:

- For 2016-17, we will incorporate two Launch modules for the 4th and 5th grade students at all SMCS elementary campuses, as well as Gateway computer science units for grades 6 and 7.
- In 2017-18, we plan to add two more Launch modules in both grades 2 and 3 and introduce a Pathways computer science module at the high school. The high school modules will be elective (rather than required) courses.
- By 2018-19, all SMCS K-12 students will have access to PLTW, with additional modules in engineering science and perhaps other areas being incorporated at the high school level.

We have three teachers attending PLTW training this summer – Jill Ahles, Karie Ann Zeinert, and Rob Srnka. This training is a train-the-trainer model that they will bring back to the schools and collaborate with their peers to ensure a strong foundation for the program.

Enrollment

Good news! We had 29 students sign up for next year in one month! Our Pre thru 5 numbers achieved the biggest net increase of 23. Our middle school added 2 new students. And the HS increased slightly over last month with a net increase of 4 students. We have steadily been losing a few but we are adding many more than we lost this month. Our total system enrollment for next year is at 888. Additional tours are scheduled at our elementary schools, and we anticipate additions to our preschool enrollment over the summer.

Total SMCS enrollment for 2016-17 = 888 students

- Elementary Schools = 464
- Middle School = 177
- High School = 247

Staffing/Benefits/Safety

The change in leadership responsibilities for two elementary schools was announced on May 12. These moves will expand upon the strengths of our administrators and improve system-wide efficiencies for next year.

- Jeanine Leege, principal of St. Gabriel Elementary, will expand her leadership role as principal for both the St. Mary and St. Gabriel school communities.
- Jill Ahles, principal at St. Mary, will transfer to the St. Gabriel campus where she will serve as an assistant principal and 5th grade homeroom teacher, and will teach students in the upper grades. Mrs. Ahles will also facilitate the planning and implementation of our new Project Lead The Way (PLTW) transformative learning initiative for teachers and students at our five SMCS schools.

We have two interviews this week for the Learning Specialist position at the high school.

Jennifer Whiting is not returning as SMCHS Guidance Counselor. The position has been posted internally and externally and external applications are coming in.

Rachel Brown has been hired as a Phy Ed Teacher, replacing John Dominguez's teaching role at the middle school. A separate plan is being developed as to how the middle/elementary school athletic director responsibilities will be covered.

Amber Nonn (.5 Spanish MS) will not be returning for 2016-17. We are currently working with Holy Spirit who is in need of a .5 Spanish teacher to advertise this as a full-time shared position in the hopes to widen our applicant pool for interest in a full-time position.

Katie Nussbaum declined signing her contract at SM. We will be searching for a K teacher.

Next week we are interviewing for a new SMCS Maintenance Manager through BSG. Summer schedules have been developed for maintenance and custodial services that occur during summer recess.

Sue Simonsen is retiring from the position this July, so we are working to fill this important role of Alumni Coordinator. If you know of anyone who may be interested in this part-time position, please contact Jennifer Miller. This role is very important from a third-source funding perspective since it works so closely with our alumni donors.

Fine Arts

Tryouts were held and a 75 member cast was selected for the Zephyr Community Players summer production of *The Wizard of Oz* to be performed on July 29-31 at our FAEC.

Plans are underway to inventory SMCS owed instruments and devise usage agreements for students/families.

Our fine arts department partnered with Future Neenah to display art work done by SMCS students during the Downtown Neenah Business Space Open House on May 12.

Business Services: Technology-Finance-Food Service

The tuition assistance review process has been completed for 2016-17 school year; letters have been mailed to all families detailing the funding sources and asking the families to commit to shared responsibilities. A similar process was intact for this year; as a result, we anticipate zero write-offs for this year.

Fund Development

Annual Fund: YTD = \$157,000

- Upcoming activities: email to all contacts who have not yet contributed next Tuesday, postcards to those who gave last year, but not this year (approximately 150 people), personal letters and meetings continue, inclusion in the alumni newsletter
- Concerned about meeting goal due large gifts going to other initiatives (middle school building fund, Zephyr Fields of Dreams, tuition assistance)

Events:

- Zephyrfest – budget is \$325,000, initial conservative estimate is \$320,000 (some expenses are estimated – profit could be higher once actual expenses are known)
- St. Mary Winter Escape = \$35,000 profit
- Planning is underway for Meet Me In The Middle, Brewfest and Jumbo Gumbo. Fun, new additions to each upcoming event. Mark your calendar for MMITM 9/16, Brewfest 10/21 and Jumbo Gumbo 11/11

Endowments and Major Gifts:

- The FATE funds are formally established now and marketing of them will begin
- Working with Dan Engelhard on process elements relative to SMCS Strategic Plan Financially Stable Business Model initiative