

## Recent Activities

- **Summer Area Meetings:** Attended four of the six MCCPTA area meetings this summer.
- **PARCC Testing Results:** Results of Spring 2018 tests were released and available at <http://reportcard.msde.maryland.gov/> -- This isn't the easiest or most intuitive tool but once you go through a couple of layers to find your school, click on "assessments" and then find MCAP (which was formerly listed as PARCC). From the drop down list, you can select grade, proficiencies, demographics, etc.
  - For the diehard data heads, I encourage you to go back to the 2017 and 2016 report cards and look at how the students in your school are trending.
  - One item I look at very closely is how did the students do on the Math 7 PARCC last year and how does that compare to the Math 8 results?
  - Contacted and quoted on PARCC results and the plan to change the future assessments in both Washington Post and Bethesda Beat.
- **MATH:** This summer, I've continued to ask questions related to middle schools eliminating on-level math classes AND what guidance is being provided for the transition to high school and what direction is being provided to ensure appropriate course placement. So far, no clear indicators.
  - I am particularly troubled looking at the PARCC data from the 9 middle schools that eliminated Math 8 last year and seeing the huge increase, by school, of kids that didn't pass the PARCC.
  - I'd like to ask for the same report we asked for last year regarding what courses each of our 9<sup>th</sup> graders are taking this year.
- **MYMCPS:** This system, rolled out last year, is still woefully underutilized by our schools and families. This year, all schools should be using this tool with more confidence (and frequency) to communicate with parents. In addition to report cards and assignments, parents are able (on the desktop version) to see historic MAP reports and many of our schools are using this tool to send daily announcements and school updates to the community. Look for more data to be loaded by the Office of Shared Accountability in coming year, including PARCC scores.
- **Elementary School Report Card:** It has been a bit of a surprise to learn the elementary school report cards were changed this summer. In the new report card, we will no longer have the chart showing a student by 'level' in the 3-5 grades (e.g., a student would be marked "K" and then the corresponding chart, the parent can see the range a child of that grade should be at). Instead, MCPS will be shifting to Lexile scores. (The student Lexile score is currently available in MAP-R reports listed in MyMCPS.)
  - We have expressed concern about the communications surrounding this change.
- **Tech Credits:** At the end of last year and over the summer, a number of conversations took place about tech credits and ability for students to satisfy this graduation requirement in some, but not all, middle schools. In 2019-20, all middle schools will offer at least one course that satisfies this requirement.
- **Principal Evaluatons:** As we closed last school year, a couple of us met with MSDE to provide feedback on a rubric being used, beginning this year, to evaluate Principals. Most of the standards carry over from prior years but there are a few new standards, including one on community feedback. This is an important item for our advocates stay on top of! All students benefit by being in a school with an effective/highly effective principal.
- **Curriculum Selection:** MCPS has issued the RFP for the new curriculum. Several of our area meetings included extensive discussions about the curriculum process. One key item MCCPTA Safe Tech committee has carried is the concern regarding how much time is allotted to "screens" during the instructional day. MCCPTA will be part of the review process. More info can be found in the BOE meetings posted on MCPS website.
- **Summer Packets:** One topic raised over the summer is the disparity we see in the use and availability of summer packets at both the elementary and secondary levels. While "requiring" work may be the prerogative of the individual schools, shouldn't "access and availability" of work that parents can use to ensure their students minimize the "summer slide" be available for all students, regardless of what boundary they live in? To be continued...
- **GPA/Grade Inflation:** I've been contacted a few times by individuals concerned about the lack of semester exams and the way grades are "averaged." We have asked MCPS to begin looking at the GPA trend since the elimination of semester exams.

