# MCCPTA Curriculum Committee Work Plan

2021-2022

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**Vision**

The mission of the Curriculum Committee is twofold:

1. Increase *transparency* of MCPS curriculum information – curriculum updates, changes, implementation, and data illuminating effectiveness.
2. Promote *partnership* between MCPS staff and MCPS parents as the co-educators of MCPS students.

**Advocacy Priorities**

The MCCPTA Curriculum Committee will serve as a liaison between MCPS parents and MCPS curriculum staff, sharing information from MCPS curriculum staff with parents and sharing parental observations, concerns, issues and questions with MCPS curriculum staff. The Curriculum Committee will act as an advocate for curriculum issues of concern to MCPS parents, students, and teachers.

Our top priorities at the start of the 2021-22 school year include:

Realistic Recovery Planning and Evaluation. We have a number of concerns about the 2021-22 school year, including but not limited to the following:

* Hyper focus on mathematics at the expense of every other subject.
* Little if any attention to recovery needs of students in grades 10-12.
* We aren’t really post-pandemic yet, but there has been very little discussion of contingency plans.

Individualized Assessment and Accountability. We know that student learning experiences during the virtual year led to a wide range of outcomes; some students experienced no learning loss at all and are ready to pick up where they would have been in normal circumstances, while others lost months or even years of expected progress. MCPS has historically done little if any assessment of learning (or lack thereof) above grade level benchmarks, and the recovery guide remains firmly focused on the 50th percentile as the only meaningful benchmark. We will advocate for individualized assessment to measure learning progress in students who start the year significantly below or above that cut point.

Increased Interaction between OSI and People Who Are Not MCPS Administrators. As noted in our annual report last year, there is a continued disconnect between curriculum developers, who talk frequently to MCCPTA representatives about our observations of curriculum implementation, and school oversight leaders, who communicate mostly with school leadership teams about curriculum implementation. We will seek regular opportunities to bring parent and student concerns to the central administrators with the authority to address those concerns.

**Action Steps**

To promote these priorities, the Curriculum Committee aspires to:

* Recruit members from across the county to facilitate feedback and dissemination from the broadest possible cross-section of PTA members. Student participation will be most welcome.
* Schedule meetings, at least quarterly, ideally monthly, with committee members to gather input and feedback.
* Facilitate the exchange of curriculum-related information between MCPS and parents/students by attending and reporting on regularly scheduled meetings with the Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Instructional Programs, the Director of the Department of PreK-12 Curriculum, the Director of the Department of College Career Readiness and Districtwide Programs, and other leaders in the Office of Teaching, Learning and Schools.
* Remain abreast of current MCPS curriculum information by attending:
	+ the MCPS Curriculum Advisory Assembly
	+ the Accelerated and Enriched Instruction Feedback Council
	+ The Grading and Reporting Workgroup
* Provide opportunities for parent involvement and information dissemination by co-sponsoring Curriculum Information Nights with MCPS staff throughout the school year
* Report regularly to MCCPTA regarding current curriculum issues and share information with parents (or other interested parties) via the MCCPTA website, the MCCPTA listserv and the Curriculum Committee listserv. The Curriculum Committee will also respond directly to any emails from MCPS parents and students.
* Work with any other MCCPTA committees that share curriculum-related issues or concerns.

**Expenses**

The Curriculum Committee expects most of its work this year to be virtual and does not request any funds at this time, unless funding is necessary to host large participation virtual meetings.