October 18, 2019

Dear BFA Seniors and Families:

I would like to thank all of you who attended the Parent Forum Tuesday and appreciated the feedback you provided either in person, on email or through the online form. I was grateful for the opportunity to address the community at the MRUSD Board Meeting on Wednesday evening. During the presentation, I was able to speak to our implementation of proficiency-based learning and lessons learned. As principal and “head learner” it was essential for me to acknowledge that I did not provide more opportunities for parents, students, and staff to gain a greater understanding of proficiency-based learning and scoring. Additionally, upon reflection, it was clear our school administrative team should have ensured more frequent communication with our parents and students over the last three years of implementation. In the end, I let our senior class down and I want to apologize to them for what they have experienced.

We have received a great deal of feedback to help us improve our next version of the transcript which will be presented on November 1st. Below is a list of issues and enhancements that are in progress. Our plan is to print the transcripts again by next Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at the latest. If this occurs sooner, I will let you know.

- On Wednesday, our PowerSchool representative informed us that they began their audit and will be reporting back by October 29, 2019. At that time, they will be providing recommendations for improving the performance of the system.
- As many of you heard at the parent forum, there was a suggestion to send our current version of the transcript to a college admissions officer to see if it is easily comprehensible. I would like to thank senior Dylan Lamson for his leadership by communicating with Moses Murphy, Senior Associate Director of Admissions at the University of Vermont. Mr. Murphy provided specific comments and the following summary at the end of his message: “this will be a very easy transcript to process and evaluate from our perspective.” Please refer to his e-mail at the end of this letter. In addition, we will be asking other colleges for their thoughts on our transcripts.
- For all classes, we will put the Proficiency Point Value on the front page so the reader will not have to continually turn the document in order to read all the proficiency points earned for each class.
- All on-line and college course grades will be published on the front page of the transcript along with the Proficiency Point Value in the Proficiency Point Average.
- We have been able to correct the Proficiency Point Average (PPA) for denied course credit so that the course average score is included in the Proficiency Point Average. Based on our analysis, all students with a credit denied (CD) will see an increase in their PPA. Also, we will be revising the class distribution scale on the school profile.
- After reviewing our data, we have developed a class rank based on weighted scores for all honors and AP courses at BFA using a 0.1 weight. We are glad to provide in a separate letter both the unweighted class rank and the weighted class rank for students who would like them. These calculations are for the class of 2020 only.
- Students taking college courses for BFA credit that appear on their transcript will receive a separate conversion scale that aligns an “A+” with a 4.3, an “A” with a 4.0, an “A-” with a 3.67 and so forth. We will publish a scale for all possible letter scores for college classes.

Chris Mosca
Principal
527-6402
amosca@maplerun.org

Heather Fitzgibbons
Assistant Principal
527-6417
hfitzgibbons@maplerun.org

Sara Kattam
Assistant Principal
527-6558
skattam@maplerun.org

Andrea Racek
Special Education Director
524-2600 Ext. 18
aracek@maplerun.org

Preston Randall
Director of Guidance
527-6572
prandall@maplerun.org

Matt Bloom
Dean of Students
527-6503
mbloom@maplerun.org
Once again, I would like to thank you for working with us to best represent the achievements of the class of 2020. If you have any questions or concerns, please email our guidance office or communicate through our feedback survey. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Chris Mosca
Principal

E-mail from Mr. Moses Murphy:
Hello Dylan-

Thank you for your email and for providing me the opportunity to weigh in. This profile and transcript look straightforward and easy to understand. Between the PPA distribution, the student's average score in each course, the cumulative PPA and the traditional grading conversion scale, this is a transcript that will be easily understood and evaluated by any admissions office.

My only feedback would be that I would move the average score into the final grade column. The credit awarded indicator (CA) is not all that necessary in my opinion because I assume that if the credit wasn't awarded, the credit column would read 0.0. If the concern is that a college/parent wouldn't understand that an average score below 3.0 resulted in no credit, then I would use the special indicator of CD in those cases. In other words, I assume that credit is being awarded in most cases. So instead of listing CA repeatedly, I would just list CD in the off chance that credit isn't being awarded.

Either way, this will be a very easy transcript to process and evaluate from our perspective. Thanks again for sharing.

MOSES MURPHY
Senior Associate Director of Admissions

University of Vermont
194 So. Prospect Street
Burlington, VT 05401
Voice: (802) 656-8830 | Fax: (802) 656-8611
Email: Moses.Murphy@uvm.edu | Web: www.uvm.edu

UVM is subject to the Vermont Public Records Act and communications to and from this email address, including attachments, are subject to disclosure unless exempted under the Act or otherwise applicable law.