



8/18/2020

## August 2020 Board Report

### 2020-2021 LCAP Goals

Goal 1: Prepare students with the skills to excel in college and career.

Goal 2: Increase the quality of instruction for all students by deepening implementation of the California State Standards.

Goal 3: Ensure all student populations achieve annual measurable academic growth.

Goal 4: Implement a plan to improve student safety and connectedness at school.

### Full time Distance Learning (DL)



Mr. Routt, Mrs. Tonseth, and Mr. Daugherty teaching remotely from their classrooms.

This quote best describes what most of the HSMS staff is feeling for the start of the 20-21 school year. "I wasn't trained to teach this way, but I'm being paid to do a job, and I'm going to do the best job I can do."

This is a vastly different start for all students, staff, and teachers. The Core subjects of ELA, Math, History, and Science will have digital books from the publishers, Holt, Rinehart, & Winston (HRW), National Geographic, and Amplify Science. We have ordered online materials for Art and Music through Davis publishers. Our Technology component is taught by Mr. Kuhl. His program's curriculum was created by Mr. Kuhl addresses the technology that HSMS uses.

Spanish is using "Realidades," Duolingo, and Quizlet. Through PLC leaders, teachers are planning on using publisher benchmarks plus adherence to the curriculum, to measure student growth.

During the first two days of school, students were given GC assignments designed to refresh memories of Google Classroom or to introduce new ideas in GC. These activities were designed by Alicia Ginter and Joslyn Hernandez pushed out school-wide. Some of the topics covered were emailing teachers, completing GC assignments, and submitting work via the GC platform. All the lessons were highly interactive.

As I visit classrooms at HSMS, the only thought crossing my mind is the "new normal" is not normal. I don't see kids in the halls. I don't hear all the sounds that are typical in a school. I don't get to walk into classes and interact with both teachers and students. What I do see are dedicated professionals living up to the shared quote above. Teachers are putting in vast amounts of effort and time to make distance learning as close to "normal" as possible. The collaborative efforts I've seen between the staff, brings me back to the time of the DuFour's PLC conference breakout sessions. It was then where I first witnessed the power of group collaboration. With the efforts of this staff, our students will not suffer academic losses like those seen during "Hold-Harmless."

I personally interviewed 22 of 24 teachers after the first day of instruction. Of the 22, 20 said that DL went better than expected. One teacher thought DL went as expected, and one teacher thought it went worse than expected, but that was mostly due to technical difficulties.

#### **Pre-Service Days 8/10/20 to 8/14/20.**

The first two days of training were dedicated to getting teachers prepared to use Google Classroom (GC) exclusively. The instruction was geared from the novice GC user all the way to advanced tips and tricks to integrate into the platform. The training was provided by ICOE and had much input from our in-house experts/trainers, Alicia Ginter, Joslyn Hernandez, Candace Tonseth, and Beth Usher. Without this marvelous group, I truly believe we would still have teachers struggling to use the GC platform, not just on site, but districtwide. Many accolades to our very own BUSD/HSMS experts! On a side note, our experts spent the remainder of the week assisting teachers with GC set-up and the best way to use the product. Additionally, Joslyn Hernandez provided teachers and students with GC cheat sheets, meant to assist them with typical questions new users might ask.

#### **Aeries Gradebook**

Beth Usher contacted me and asked for an impromptu staff meeting to deliver great news and a tutorial if needed. Beth and Alicia Ginter discovered a work-a-round GC. Teachers were no longer going to need to create 15 different GC's. During the meeting teachers were shown how to link A's B's and DL's into one GC. This was a game changer, to say the least. Teachers now

only needed to post one assignment per period instead of three. That is a major time-saver especially in this era where we are learning and teaching in concert.

## **Amplify Science**

On day two of Pre-service, Science teachers engaged in a ½ day training session, provided by Amplify Science. Amplify had two major goals for those teachers in attendance:

- Navigate the Amplify Science curriculum
- Apply program essentials to prepare to teach Amplify Science units

The metrics Amplify Science chose to illustrate success are:

- Locate resources and support materials
- Access Instructional Guide
- Identify when to project Digital Resources
- Describe how students collect evidence from multiple sources in the Amplify Science approach to build understanding
- Locate and describe assessment opportunities designed to measure student learning

## **Building Connections**

Teachers are taking the time to make personal connections with their students and student's families. They started this on 8/13/2020. They are reaching out through phone calls, Zoom, Meet, video conferencing, and apps such as "band." The band app is meant for small closed group communication. Currently Stacy Van Nest is using it as her main mode of communication for DT/CG. Danielle and I had teachers engage in this activity to build rapport and relieve stress and anxiety for both parents and students. Additionally, teachers are able to answer any questions students or parents may have. If you haven't already subscribed, be one of the first to hear and see my video messages on Youtube, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3lwOHdd18XujW1KIWQB2zg>.

## **Aeries**

What can I say about Aeries that hasn't already been said? There were some problematic glitches to say the least. First and foremost, I want to extend many kudos to Shawna Kane, Brenda Kiddoo, and Linda Sandoval for the hard work, multitude of hours, and ruined weekends that they put into making this version of a master schedule a reality. Their work is truly appreciated and I'm forever grateful. There are some small details that are still being corrected, but we were able to 99.86% of students scheduled in the A/B Block format. The .14% are two students that have special needs, therefore aren't with HSMS 100% of the day.

## Office Staff

HSMS went 100% DL on 8/19/2020. Several students had difficulty logging onto Zoom, meet, or Google Classroom. Nicole Behrendt, Brenda Kiddoo, and Linda Sandoval fielded 100's of calls and emails, directing students and families on the process of logging on. Great Job for sure.

## Chromebook Distribution



Students socially distancing themselves before receiving login information.

What better way to improve student connectedness, than to have HSMS kids coming to school to gather the needed materials for a successful Distance Learning transition. While gathering materials, students had the opportunity to meet several teachers, discuss logging onto Google and obtain internet hotspots.

Danielle Grate, Karen Tomasek, TiAna VArgas, Nicole Behrendt, Rachel Rico, Tisha Coons, Adam Routt, Joslyn Hernandez, Jen Batcheller, Lysnsey Schneider, Lauren Talmage, Alicia Ginter, Jonathan Willy, and Candice Tonseth, all need a huge pat on the back. I want you all to know that they braved triple digit heat to get our HSMS Colts what they needed to be successful for Distance Learning. Additionally, I'd like to recognize all the parents and students that braved the heat-wave to ensure they'd be ready for day one of full distance learning. Hopefully, we will never need to do this style of distribution again, but if we do, I would not change one aspect of this. Energy was high, staff morale was high, and the community was happy to be on campus.

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