

Miller Curriculum Advisory Committee (MiCAC)

December 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Amy Steele (Principal), Ling-Ling Chern (7th/8th teacher), Sheng-Yin Lin (7th teacher), Richard Kuan (6th/7th teacher), Jane Cu/Michelle Yau (8th reps), Rachel Yuen (7th reps), Ralph Lao/Sukma Sumali/Jenny Wang (6th reps)

Next meeting: 01/06/21 Joint meeting with Meyerholz CAC

Principal's Report (Ms. Steele):

- School Board looking to put out Parcel Tax in lieu of school closure. Mostly affects elementary school. We have found a couple of representatives to represent Miller in the Parcel Tax committee.
- CLIPCO meeting: discussed the possibility of CLIP K-5 campus and asked what their role is in advocating for CLIP's own campus. Looking into setting up an Advocacy committee. Differing parent opinions on whether CLIP should have its own campus
- District was considering closing schools due to declining enrollment and fiscal solvency
- Many of the schools affected by potential school closure are energized to pass parcel tax
- Hybrid opening plan in January is postponed (paused) due to the county's Purple Tier state. CUSD has metrics to determine when/whether schools can re-open.
- After the next school board meeting, a commitment survey will be sent out to parents.
- Question to group: Need to look at CLIP Masterplan for the middle school portion. Ms. Steele will send survey to MiCAC reps and report back by January 2021

General discussion:

- Teacher's feelings/burn out level: distance learning is hard, but health consideration is important
- Parents concern about not having the same teachers if distance learning is offered
- Per Ms. Steele, for middle school, students stay with the same teachers with either options (distance learning or hybrid). Students who chose hybrid will be in school, but teaching by teacher will still happen online as teachers will be teaching both distance learners and hybrid learners at the same time.
- Distance learning is slower than in-person learning. Teachers try to not give too many assignments.
- Some problems with passive students who do not participate and do not put in enough effort. Recommend students to attend homework club or office hours.
- Teachers had to cut down a lot of materials due to time limitations. They pick and choose important lessons to cover. Distance learning downside: too much screen time and less material coverage, hard to assess passive learners. Teachers would ask students to take notes by hand when students do not participate. Parents can help teachers by asking what their students are working on, making sure that they practice and do their assignments. Teachers encourage writing and drawing to enhance learning and absorption of study materials. They also help reduce screen time.

Mr. Kuan's 6th/7th grade report:

6th grade Social Studies:

- One lesson/chapter per week. Wrapping up Sumerian, Judaism/Hebrew unit; moving on to India soon.
- Work on Reading Response Journal (RRJ), Chinese vocabulary, TCI workbook, use Kahoot games for learning

6th grade Chinese:

- End of lesson 3. Hope to get to lesson 4 by next week. Students are learning vocabulary, Edmodo, making sentences, and MZHY workbook
- Slow in marking their assignments. In school, students would exchange markings for their homework assignments to enhance learning. In distance learning, all assignments need to be corrected by the teacher.

7th grade Chinese:

- Project based learning: cooking video, finished "learning Chinese" section - teaching someone how to speak Chinese using video
- Reading the novel *80 Days Around the World*; students need to do book report for it
- Project: report about traveling around the world, plan itinerary and route
- Finishing MZHY lesson 3 this week

Ms. Lin's 7th grade report:

Social Studies:

- Slow progress. Still in unit 1, doing jigsaw puzzles groups. Some students still struggle in their presentation because they are under prepared or do not understand the context.
- Switch to hand written notes to improve muscle memory and memorizing their notes
- Encouraged students to participate in discussion and turn on camera using PBIS points
- Pen Pal program with 28 students from a school in Taiwan (Nan Tou County). 28 out of the 61 seventh grade students participate on a voluntary basis since some students already have penpals through Ms. Chern's classes.

Ms. Chern's 7th/8th grade report:

7th grade Chinese:

- Pen Pal writings for both 7th and 8th graders are required with a secondary school in China (7th and 10th graders). The program is organized by Window to the World, college students, and young professionals from colleagues on the east coast. They have a letter exchange schedule, and students will be writing a total of five letters this year.

Each letter batch has topics associated with it (e.g., entertainment). Ms. Chern encourages kids to share their penpal experience with their parents.

- Three assignments/tasks per week due by Friday @ 3:30 p.m. to train students with time management. An example weekly assignment is 1) Two sheets of MZHY worksheet per week, 2) audio recording on the lesson, 3) finish a pen pal letter draft (the letter is also translated into English)
- Use Quizlet for learning vocabulary.
- Emphasize writing. Letter preparation writing is digital. The letter draft is done by hand; the 2nd draft is typed; the letter is edited digitally using a checklist. Pen pal letters are sent and received digitally.
- Other writing assignments go through the writing process: the first draft by hand, the second draft is typed and turned in to Ms. Chern. The final work will be handwritten.
- Read Level Chinese books.

8th grade Chinese:

- Read eBooks on iChineseReader, over 3000 books on the digital reading platform. Students need to take notes by hand for each digital book they read.
- Focus on writing: Story narration, picture discussion, draft, edit, and finalize
- Students have a pen pal from a secondary school in China. They will write a total of 5 letters this year. All exchanges are sent and received digitally. This is the same Pen Pal Program that the 7th-grade class is doing. It's run by Window to the World, a college student organization on the east coast.
- Students do Meizhou Huayu worksheets, read and do oral recording of each MZHY lesson.
- Students use Quizlet for vocabulary practice.

8th grade Social Studies:

- Digital tools used include TCI online curriculum, Quizlet, iChineseReaders, Newsela
- Handwritten work is encouraged to enhance learning. Chapter preview and reading notes are made by hand.
- Current events are part of regular lessons. When appropriate, students have to read, write, and record. Students did an oral recording assignment on which the research to learn about a CA proposition on the 2020 General Election. Students take notes, make outlines, take a stand on the chosen proposition, and explain their reasons orally.
- Graphic organizers are used as part of content learning. Students can choose to work alone, in pairs, or in groups of three people to complete graphic organizers.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact your MiCAC grade level representatives.