Distance Learning 2020
Science Grades 6 - 8

Presenter: Crystal Caouette, Secondary Science Supervisor, Middletown Public Schools

Unlocking the Potential in ALL Students

Middletown Schools Middle Grades Background

	Keigwin Middle School Students Grade 6 (%)	Woodrow Wilson Middle School Students Grades 7 & 8 (%)
Female	48.6	52.6
Male	51.4	47.4
Asian	4.9	4.9
Black	23.2	22
Hispanic	21.4	20.8
White	43.0	46.7
Students with Disabilities (not including 504)	14.6	13.3
ELL	4	2.1
Free/Reduced Lunch	40.6	43.9
Chronic Absenteeism	9.5	9.6

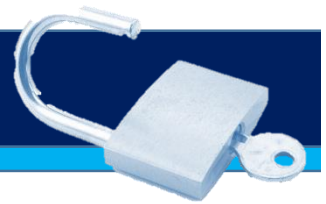
Both Schools

Teams: 110 students, 4 core teachers

Cores: ELA, Math, SS, Science

Electives: PE, Health, Art, Music, STEM

1:1 Google Chromebook Technology



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How did we plan for change?

Week 1

- MEALS at 4 School Sites
- Organize and Order Chromebooks & Hotspots
- Expedite Contract with LINCSpring
- Train Administrators
- Spring Break (*Teachers, Students)*

MPS Continuation of Learning Secondary

Science Resources for Grades 6 - 12 **STEM Resources for Grades 6 - 8**

Middle School Science & STEM		
Grade 6 Science • Kids National Geographic • Walking with Dinosaurs - Fossils • Legends of Learning *(Code in Google Classroom)*	Grade 7 Science • NASA Earth Science • Weather & Climate Resources • NOAA Weather • SciJinks - All About Weather!	Grade 8 Science • Natural Selection • Punnett Squares • Science News for Students • Learn Genetics • Genetics Links & Activities • Children Resemble Parents
Grade 6 STEM • Code.org • PBS Design Squad • Scratch - MIT	Grade 7 STEM • NASA STEM Links • STEM Collaborative • STEM Works	Grade 8 STEM • Scratch - MIT • TinkerCAD • How Stuff Works

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How did we plan for change?

Week 2

- Meals at 4 School Sites
- Handout/Deliver Chromebooks
- Train Teachers with LINCSpring
- Students work on Enrichment

Training Focus

1. Google Classroom
2. Padlet
3. Screencastify
4. EDPuzzle

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Distance Learning Task Force

Initial Task:

- Define Distance Learning Expectations: How many assignments? How long?

Result for Middle School:

- Mondays & Wednesdays: Science, Math, STEM, Foreign Language, Art
- Tuesday & Thursday: ELA, Social Studies, PE/Health, Music
- Asynchronous: Two assignments per week, 40 minutes each (maximum)

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Weeks 1 & 2: Student Engagement, New Learning for Teachers, Unit Review

- *Focus was to Engage & Reconnect with students*
- *Teachers were excited and anxious about learning new technology.*
- *What we learned and tried:*

Gizmos
Legends of Learning
EDPuzzle
Padlet
NewsELA
PhET
Concord Consortium
Discussions
Screencastify
YouTube
Parent Emails
Student Emails (NEW)
Google Classroom Comments

Moving Forward: Our Work as a Science Department and as Grade Level Teams

Science Teams	Grade Level Teams
Google Meet Once Weekly, Email Often	Google Meet Once Weekly, Email Often
Focus on Science Learning: PE & SEP	Focus on Engaging Students & Families
Interactive, Simulations, Real World	SEL
Data Collection, Make Claims, Argumentation from Evidence	Use of Engagement Tracker – Team Lead Makes Contact
Collaborate where possible	What works in other disciplines?

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Best Practices in Science

Grade 6: Ecosystem Simulation

Grade 7: Seasons Station Lab

Grade 8: Genetics Cloning Debate

Grade 8: Magnetic Cannon Lab

Google App Extensions

Kami – Draw/Annotate PDF

MOTE – Voice Comments

NOD – Google Meet Reactions

FEEDBACK, FEEDBACK, FEEDBACK!

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MPS Distance Learning Task Force Part 2

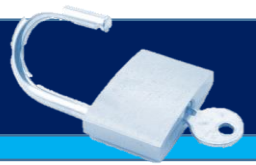
Task:

- Determine Attendance Procedures and Policy
- Define Grading Policy During Distance Learning and for the Year

Attendance/Engagement

1- No Communication/Not Logged In
2- No Communication/Logged In
3 - Communicated with student or guardian (teacher has emailed or messaged student or guardian)
4- Engaged with on-line assignments (student has attempted one assignment or a partial assignment)
5- Submitted on-line assignments (students has completed the assignments for the week)

Assignment/Assessment Performance Levels*	
Collected	The *collected* icon signifies student met the expectations of the assignment/assessment.
Still Developing	The *still developing* icon shows student submitted work, but did not yet meet the expectations of the assignment. For assignments/assessments with the performance level of *still developing*, teachers will provide feedback on work, and student can resubmit work to show they met expectations.
Missing	The *missing* icon signifies student did not submit the assignment. The missing assignment does not count for or against the student's average as traditional grades are not being issued at this time.



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Final Grade Determination

6-8 Procedures for Assigning Term Grades	
Student Performance/Engagement Level	**Descriptor**
MEETS EXPECTATIONS	• Consistent engagement throughout the closure • Assignments are completed and turned in by student *AND* • Assignments meet expectations
APPROACHING EXPECTATIONS	• Some engagement made throughout the closure • Some assignments completed and turned in by student • Assignments approach expectations
INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE	• Minimal or no engagement made throughout the closure • Few or no assignments completed and turned in by student • Insufficient evidence

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Challenges, Success, Next Steps

Challenges

- Engaging all students
- Synchronous learning
- Hands-on labs

Successes

- Community Connectedness
- New Learning & Resources

Next Steps

How will distance learning strategies impact future instruction?

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Contact Information

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