

To: Dr. Mahoney
Board of Education
From: Heidi Deininger
Re: Board Report
Date: December 12, 2023



School Improvement Plan

2023-2024 School Improvement Plan [HERE](#)

Academics:

- All content teams have been tracking & analyzing their data throughout the school year. Students are showing tremendous growth in all core content areas and in the electives.
- End of semester benchmarking assessments (MAP, ThinkCerca, iXL and finals) are occurring from now until the end of the semester.
- We will have 40 high school seniors complete a dual credit (counts as both high school and college credit) this semester. We are excited about this, as it is the largest number we have had in several years. At the moment, Ranae Taylor and Seth McMillan are our only dual credit teachers, but a few others are working on their certification. As you can imagine, this is very important to parents, as it provides a cost savings to families/students on college tuition.

Profile of a Graduate

- We continue to work with our team to build our Profile. You can see our progress here [Profile of Graduate](#)
- Next up will be an invitation to participate for students, families and community members/business owners. We will form small focus groups to gather feedback and input about what is felt to be most essential to include in our Profile of a Graduate.

Leader in Me:

- Our student Lighthouse team continues to work on our peer mentoring program. Our goal is to have the program up & running for second semester. This will include identification of students who are interested in having a mentor and being mentored, training the mentors and providing time/activities during the school day for the partners.
- The Athletic Leadership Council meets monthly. This group is led by our Student Leadership team. The ALC discusses ways to improve our athletic program overall and ways they can lead their fellow student athletes.
- All Hawk Huddles (homerooms) and athletic programs are expected to complete a community service project throughout the year. At the moment, we have several projects going on that include a hat & mitten

drive, hygiene and other supplies for Miss Karly's (in Rockford), a food drive, a pet supply drive, a book drive, gifts & cards for residents of the nursing home, a shoe drive and other projects that are taking place around the building like recycling and grounds clean up. It is inspiring to see our students' commitment to service.

Athletic Action Plan:

- We have a working draft of the updated version of the Athletic Action Plan [DRAFT Athletic Action Plan](#)
- As part of the plan, the team would like to start the Hawks Fan Club. This fans club would be voluntary and community supported, but *all funds would run through the athletic department*
- Bylaws are being worked out, but will be modeled after other fan clubs in our area
- The mission of the Hawks Fan Club is to exist for **the purpose of broadening the involvement of students, student's families, community and the school, through support for all students activities of the school.**

Course selection guide/additions for 2024-2025

- We are adding three pathways for the 24-25 school year that students can have on their high school transcripts as an endorsement; education, manufacturing and agriculture. In order to earn the endorsement, students will need to take 6 hours of dual credit and complete 60 hours of an internship. We are very excited to provide this opportunity to our students.
- We are adding an additional AP class for next year, available to sophomores. AP Language will be added to the English department, increasing our rigor in English.
- We are adding several new options for electives for our students. Some new electives include Forensic Science, Digital Media (revised course), Foods & Nutrition, Drama & Theatre, Life in the Real World-Senior Seminar. We want to offer our students as many opportunities as possible so they maximize their time at OJSHS.



Mandi Callaway <acallaway@ocusd.net>

Fwd: Teacher Talk 12.13

Heidi Deininger <hdeininger@ocusd.net>
To: Mandi Callaway <acallaway@ocusd.net>
Cc: Tom Mahoney <tmahoney@ocusd.net>

Thu, Dec 14, 2023 at 8:28 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kim Radostits** <krad@ocusd.net>
Date: Wed, Dec 13, 2023 at 8:21 PM
Subject: Teacher Talk 12.13
To:

Dear Colleagues,

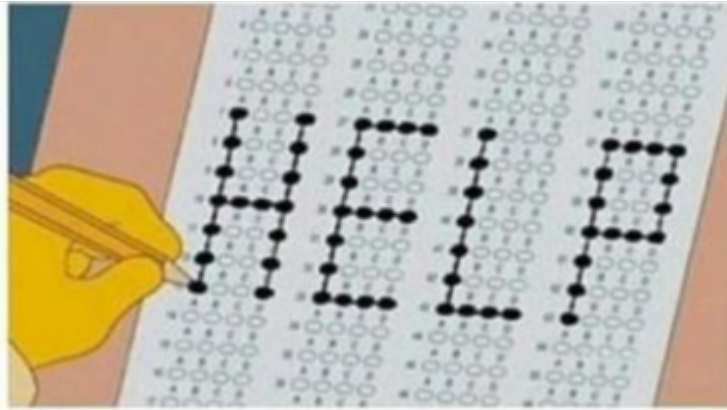
The topic of this week's Teacher Talk is end of semester review. Two things before you dig in:

- 1) I would love to hear YOUR ideas on review activities. [If you have something to share, add it here!](#)
- 2) I restocked my filing cabinet with chocolate. If you are ever in need a treat and a good teacher chat, COME SEE ME!

Have a great end to the week and reach out if you need anything!

Sincerely,
Kim Radostits





Thoughts for the Classroom

Amigos,

With the end of the semester near, I know there will be a lot of reviewing going on.

We know that our students are fans of Kahoot, but if you are looking to shake it up (and avoid a student having 7 periods of that), here are some other options for you:

1) [Blooket](#)--Blooket is a free website that offers pre-made quizzes for classes OR allows you to create your own using your own content. Students can play this in Live mode as a group or in Homework mode where it is self-paced. Game modes include:

- *Deceptive Dinos* – Become a top paleontologist! Find fossils by answering questions.
- *Gold Quest* – Amass riches by answering questions
- *Crypto Hack* – Answer questions to mine cryptocurrency and hack others.
- *Fishing Frenzy* – Cast your line to reel in the biggest fish in the sea!
- *Tower Defense* – Answer questions, build towers, and design a defense system to protect yourself from the Blookers.
- *Cafe* – Run your own cafe! Serve food to customers, restock supplies, and get upgrades by answering questions.
- *Factory* – Answer quickly to upgrade your Blookers and make virtual cash in your factory

Mr. Gale had the awesome idea of making a google form with game options that allows students to vote on the mode that you play (this doesn't change the content at all)

2) [Quizizz](#)--Quizizz is another game based website that allows students to play in a live mode or in homework mode. It was my go-to site during Covid, when students were remote. I hosted "gaming hours" where students could all hop on and we would play together over zoom. If you have a projector in your classroom, this is still just as great! Students are able to answer questions at their own pace AND this tool offers an AI assistant, where you can upload an existing test and it will create questions for you. (You may need to make some modifications, but who DOESN'T like a head start?!?!)

3) [Flippity](#)--Flippity has templates where you can have more of a game show atmosphere in your class like digital escape rooms, memory games, quiz shows, board games, tic-tac-toe style games and bingo.

4) [Baamboozle](#)--Baamboozle is a pretty straightforward game similar to Press Your Luck (no whammies!). Students can play on teams while the teacher (or student leader) directs the game.

5) [Quizlet](#)--The grandfather of all online quiz games for the classroom, quizlet does now have a live mode worth checking out. I know Mr. Poser uses this one and kids enjoy it!

6) [Curipod](#)--While not a game, necessarily, Curipod does allow for several types of interactive review options for students like drawing answers, would you rather, polling, word maps AND an AI assistant that can coach students on their answers.

7) Bingo--There are so many variations you can do with this game in your classroom whether it be for definitions, character descriptions, equations, etc.. It is a classic for a reason. [Here is a card generator](#).

8) Mini whiteboard checks--If you don't have a set, white cardstock in a sheet protector sheet does the trick! You can simply project questions up on the screen, or you can have students play pictictionary related to your content, tic tac toe (where they get a turn if they get a question correct),

9) [The Unfair Game](#)---This is a silly game I made up with my Spanish 3/4 class. Students are split into groups and each group is given a deck of cards that each have questions on them and a random number (I make them in google slides and print 6 slides to a page, and cut them out). Students in each group take turns drawing a card and answering the question. If the group agrees that they got the question correct, the student that drew the card gets to spin the wheel (at the link). The points correspond with the number on their card. I played this with Emma MS and Maya MS one day and it was truthfully one of the most memorable days of my career where I laughed until my stomach hurt.

10) [The REAL Unfair game](#)--turns out the "unfair game" was a name that was already taken. Oopsie! Here is a link to directions on the real one. I have never played it, but it could be fun!

11) Hot Seat--Divide the class into two teams. Have a representative from each team sit up at the front of the room with their back to the board. Project a word or concept on the board. Team one describes to their teammate what the word or concept is without saying it (like taboo) as a timer counts down from 30 seconds. If they get it right, it moves on to as many words or concepts as possible in the 30 seconds.

Next, switch teams.

12) Station rotations--Do you have a lot of DIFFERENT concepts students need to master? Set your classroom up into pods and allow students to move from station to station. ChatGPT can help you generate activities for this (they do NOT need to all be games). A few ideas I have include: Jenga review station, [Paper.co](#) station, Flashcard station, blookey station, reading quiz stations, etc..

13) Gallery walks--If you have a lot of information for students to take in and you do NOT want to gamify, consider breaking it into chunks and posting the reading/content up on the walls. This would allow students to get up and moving and the research shows that the increased bloodflow helps with focus.

14) Capture the flag--This is an activity that can be used like stations but students stay in their chairs. See me if you want to know more!

Tech Tip

Have you been as frustrated as I am when clicking on parent email addresses in Powerschool only to have it open an Outlook email?!...There is only one tech thing that is worse (in my opinion), and that would be two-step verifying in the middle of a lesson. *SHUDDER*

I have a SOLUTION FOR YOU, that I wish I learned sooner.


- Step 1:** Have your google email open in a tab
- Step 2:** RIGHT click on the parent email link in Powerschool
- Step 3:** Click "Open link with"

Step 4: Click "mail.google.com"

IF this doesn't work....repeat steps 1-3 and THEN click "configure" to make sure Gmail is enabled there.

See picture below, for more help.

Ethnicity	16
Father's Employer	
Father's Home Phone	
Father's Name	
Father's Day Phone	
Gender	F
Grade Level	9
Graduation Year	
Guardianship	Mother
Guardian Email	ChristinaLMiller1@gmail.com
Home Room	
Locker Combination	12-26-32
Student Email	mliden@gmail.com



Looking for Professional Development? Contact me!

2023-2024 Instructional Coach Services

Availability: Before/after school, B lunch and 3rd / 6th hours

Contact Info: Kimberly Radostits (Room 119) krad@ocusd.net or 815-353-9646

PD Options	Description
Tech Support	Need help with the technology offered by the district? Want to learn a new website/application but don't have time to play with it? Let me be a resource!
Classroom Visits*	Want feedback on an activity, lesson, or class? Let's schedule a time for me to visit!
Tag-outs*	Do you have a colleague in the building you have been wanting to watch teach? Have me supervise one of your classes on a day where there is minimal direct instruction and go get inspired!
Be our guest!*	Want to watch students out in the wild? Come on into Room 119 at any time and have a seat at our VIP desk!
Planning Support*	Feeling stuck on activities, lessons or units? Need a fresh perspective? Let's schedule a time to work together!
Tune-Up Time*	Do you have a formative/summative assessment that needs an overhaul or multiple versions for differentiation? Let's meet to fine tune them!
Co-teaching*	Have a class where you feel like you need to be an octopus to make it all happen? Or, do you have a lesson that best lends to having another adult/personality in the room? Let's work together!
Goal Setting*	Have a goal or problem you want to tackle this month, semester or year and need a supportive colleague? Pick me! I am here for you!
Coaching Cycle*	Would you like to go through the process of refining your practice by setting an instructional goal, collecting data, receiving feedback and having reflective conversations over an extended period of time ? Let's team up!
Choose your own PD*	Have you found an article, book, podcast that you are super excited about and want to have a reflective conversation? Do you have an idea/topic you want to work out with another educator? Let's sit down and professionally develop!
Other Support	
Brain Dump	Are you in need of a vent session or a listening ear with no strings attached? I'll bring the chocolate, let's chat.
Copyediting	Do you have some type of communication you need to get out to the public in the form of an email, newsletter, etc.? I can be a second set of eyes on it for tone, messaging or wording.
Resource Curating	Need resources for your content area or an instructional strategy? Let me know, I will help with the research!

Additional Note: CPDUs (eligible for license renewal) will be provided for time spent engaging in opportunities marked with an asterisk*.



Kimberly Radostits

Kimberly is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

Unsubscribe from emails by Kimberly Radostits.

--

Dr. Heidi Deininger, Principal