

Present at meeting: Math teachers, 2 parent reps, 1 student rep

Topics:

1. Math Competitions: Mathe Olympiade has been held with a JFKS 9<sup>th</sup> grader winning 3rd place in Berlin. This is a huge accomplishment since students from Berlin's top math and science schools compete. Känguru math competition takes place in March with 67 students currently signed up. Eighth graders on the ski trip may also participate by taking the test in Austria.

Pangea has also been completed. There was a question as to whether a minimum grade (Note) threshold should be required to participate since some students may sign up just to be excused from another class.

2. VERA 8 (March 6 th) and MSA 10 (April 29 th): Preparing students now for VERA 8 with sample tests in German and English. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students have a busy schedule trying to finish up tests and projects before the ski trip and will be very tired by the end of the week with both VERA Math and German tests. Teachers will try to keep them motivated. The tests take 80 minutes. Teachers are asked to solve the test so that they can identify any issues or inconsistencies in translations. Tests are available in both German and English in each classroom so that a student can refer to either language for clarification. Students should be reminded to follow directions such as "explain" or simply "calculate". The test does not count toward the student's grade, but a teacher may take it into consideration if a student is borderline.

3. Results of the Workshop Day:

*Group 1:* Transition Meeting between HS/ ES math departments: HS was disappointed that there were not enough 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers present to effectively address transition to HS. The high school identified *fractions* as an area that has to be strengthened in ES. The ES has been covering more Geometry contents (angles, characteristics of triangles and quadrilaterals) as an appreciated result of the transition meeting held a couple of years ago. The ES wants to select math books that align with the current HS books and curriculum.

*Group 2:* Media Competencies:

Vote on the implementation of Media Competencies for each grade level will be done in May.

Media competency summary sheets were distributed detailing per grade level:

- Lesson/topic of unit
- Areas of media literacy covered (research, media product, written part, communication/collaboration, presentation, digital ethics)
- Focal points of the media competency development for each unit
- Status in Media curriculum (new unit, under development, already included)

Media products currently used include "Desmos" and "Geogebra". The Math department plans to have a session to expose teachers to both products so they understand the functionality possible within each. In addition, other media used are: WaDi (Baden-Württemberg sheets), Realmath, Khan Academy, Aufgabenfuchs, Excel, Calculators.

Discussion focused on how much of a project should be done on computer vs. by hand and whether students understand the fundamentals if they do not create graphs (i.e. pie charts) by hand. Projects could include a combination of the two, leverage the graphical capabilities of software, and focus on analyzing the various graphs. TBD after further consideration.

4. Miscellaneous:

- Ordered workbooks for 7-10 grades
- Various positions are vacant PaeKo, Physics Chair, ...
- "Day of Math" event – team event @ end April / beg. May to be held at a university. Event is in German, but teams could be mixed Ger/Eng. Teams consist of mixed grades: 7-8, 9-10, and 11-12.
- Schwierigkeiten im Rechnen: Handed out a guide to help teachers diagnose difficulty with math. Decisions are based on ES testing and granted statuses. After making an assumption whether a student has a massive problem in Math and after individual education's plans will not be effective, the class conferences may decide whether a student would be eligible to receive up to 25% additional time for math tests in 7-10<sup>th</sup> grades.