



Math Department Meeting

Thursday, June 6, 2024

Invitation

Invited/ <i>Eingeladene</i>	Joe Welborn, Patty Krueger, Maren Althoff, Ulrike Moeller, Daniel Friedrichs, Max Kuballa, Thea Lindner, Timo Kaufmann, Daniel Arocas, Julia Stuhr, Andrew Iacobucci, Denisse Coronado, Michael Fontenot, Mathias Kieß, Werner Fuernkranz, Dr. Astrid Begehr, Jack Busta
Time/ <i>Zeit</i>	12:20 - 13:05
Location/ <i>Ort</i>	W303
Leader/ <i>Leitung</i>	Joe Welborn
Minute-taker/ <i>Protokollant:in</i>	Daniel Arocas

Agenda - Tagesordnung

	TOPIC	Name(s) of preparer	Format: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information • Brainstorming • Discussion • Decision
1	Welcome & Introduction	Joe	1'
2	Approval of the Agenda	all	1'
3	8th Grade Curriculum Topic: Similarity	Timo	Discussion & Decision 5-10'
4	Reduced Test Weight for Grades 9-10	Joe	Discussion & Decision 5-10'
5	VERA-8 Results	Joe	Information & Discussion 5-10'
6	Grades 5 & 6 Competency Checklists	Joe	Information & Discussion 5'
7	Bettermarks	Maren	Information 10'

Minutes - Protokoll

Attendees <i>Teilnehmer:innen</i>	Maren Althoff, Dr. Begehr, Timo Kaufmann, Michael Fontenot, Patty Krüger, Ulrike Moeller, Max Kuballa, Thea Linder, Joe Welborn, Thea Lindner, Andrew Iacobucci, Daniel Arocas, Daniel Friedrichs
absent/ <i>abwesend</i>	Denisse Coronado, Mathias Kieß, Werner Fürnkranz
excused/ <i>entschuldigt</i>	

	Minutes	To-Do-List: what/who/until when/ sources and links
1	Welcome and approval of agenda (WELB)	
2	Approved unanimously	
3	<p>8th Grade Curriculum Topic: Similarity (KAUF)</p> <p>IACO, KAUF, FONT are currently teaching 8th grade. They think two topics listed in the 8th grade curriculum belong to another grade level:</p> <p>1) Similarity: this is mostly taught in 9th grade, but it is slightly covered/introduced in 8th grade. Proposal: Do similarity completely in 9th grade instead of introducing it in 8th grade. The topic in 8th grade is at the very end of the list so we often don't have time to cover it in 8th grade as this year is very full of new, important content. .</p> <p>2) Pyramids: this topic is first introduced in the curriculum at the end of 8th grade, but it is covered more deeply in 10th grade math with cones, volume lateral area, etc). It makes sense to start pyramids in 8th grade with basics like introducing solids, drawing, perspective drawing... this makes teaching pyramids in 10th grade easier if they already know the basics. Getting rid of it in 8th grade and giving space for practicing more algebra is perhaps a good idea because algebra topics are a bigger issue for grades 9-12. Pyramids are addressed when learning the Pythagorean Theorem in 8th grade because of the right triangles. We should keep this aspect of pyramids in 8th but cover volume and other measurements in 10th.</p>	<p>*** updated Rahmenlehrplan has to be implemented from Aug 24 on for grades 7+8 and from Aug 25 on for all 7-10 ***</p> <p>We will update the curriculum guides as decisions are made and the Rahmenlehrplan is referenced.</p>

4	<p>Reduced Test Weight for Grades 9-10 (WELB)</p> <p>We still have the honors/regulars distinction for 10th grade students this year because they were on the program in 9th grade last year. The current 9th grade is on the new trial with the reduced test weight option (30% instead of 40%). Do we want to continue with this new option for students who struggle in math? We cannot just get rid of it, that would be a big step that would involve the whole school. The department agreed that the new option is better, it does help some students and it is easier to implement than the honors/regulars. We still need to be careful if this rule is not beneficial to some students if the only thing they do is study for the test and it counts 30% at the end.</p>	<p>Joe will print enrollment sheets for 8th grade teachers and we will continue with the new option of a reduced test weight.</p>
5	<p>VERA-8 Results (WELB,ALTH)</p> <p>Over the last 5 years, the percentage of students that fall under the minimum standards (Mindeststandards) has increased.</p> <p>The main topics are always the same and each school chooses one out of two foci. The focus may change but the bigger part is general topics. The decision of the topic should not be the reason for the falling trend. We do not do any special preparation before the VERA-8, perhaps we should so that students are familiar with the structure, format, and grading. Using the statistics we can compare the results of Berlin (green line) and our results and we can see where we need to repeat (if the line is left from the green stripe) or where/who we are doing a great job and we can implement for other groups.</p> <p>Explanation could be COVID because in Math everything keeps builds on former knowledge. Students in 8th grade are the students who were learning the basics (like fractions or basic calculations) during the pandemic.</p>	<p>We could create one list of the non-HS topics we are “constantly” reviewing so that we have resources to get to regularly.</p> <p>We need to continue to support basic skills along with new content in our 7-10 classes.</p> <p>Curriculum for the Math Lab? Other Departments are starting to create them.</p>
6	<p>Grades 5 & 6 Competency Checklists (WELB)</p> <p>At the beginning of each unit in grades 5-6, students and parents get the overview of the “I can...” statements including examples, practice videos, pictures in both English and German. This is helpful for parents when supporting their students.</p>	<p>We could also consider making these checklists for grades 7-10. Teachers are doing this already, so it could be helpful to collaborate and share these resources.</p>

7	<p>Bettermarks (ALTH)</p> <p>The policy changed a little bit: Now Berlin pays for Bettermarks and it's more complicated to get access. It's via the Lehrerendgerät or the L***** mail address. In the Berliner Schulportal > Bettermarks > Üben und Testen. Materials in English and German. It also includes Eingangstest for all grade levels. The program will create specific tests for each student with their problems and Wissenslücken.</p> <p>If you want to use it: Students have to be entered into Bettermarks and we teachers give them their access information.</p> <p>Do we want to decide to use the Schulportal instead of just Bettermarks? It will be easier for the students if other teachers use some other apps in the Schulportal.</p> <p>If we do use it, we can link it to the Math Lab!</p>	
8	13:18 --- end of meeting.	