

## REACH Parent Group MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 9, 2021

1pm-2pm

District Office, Conference Room 217

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REACH Parent Group, a committee of the PTA Council, is a parent group dedicated to supporting gifted and talented programs in District 205 and encouraging higher level educational opportunities for ALL District 205 students. Our area of focus includes:

- Providing parent and student resources for gifted and advanced learners
- Organizing advocacy at local and national levels
- Sponsoring and/or promoting academic-based extra-curricular activities that are accessible to all students
- Collaborating with REACH teachers to provide additional resources and student opportunities.

### MEETING TOPICS:

**30 participants ([sign in sheet](#))**

Welcome Introductions ~ Sarah Jensen, REACH PG Chair

- Executive Committee, REACH School Reps

Sarah reviewed that we are a committee of the PTA Council. Our parent group is dedicated to supporting gifted and talented programs in District 205 and encouraging higher-level educational opportunities for ALL District 205 students. Our area of focus includes:

- Providing parent and student resources for gifted and advanced learners
- Sponsoring and/or promoting academic-based extra-curricular activities that are accessible to all students
- Collaborating with REACH teachers to provide additional resources and student opportunities.

We encourage everyone to share ideas and feedback, in a constructive manner, with the goal to help and improve current enrichment options.

Welcome Kerry Leuschel ~ D205 Director of Curriculum & Instructional Supports (15 mins)

- Recap New to REACH information sessions
  - Clarification on REACH and Dual Language Identification
- Status of D205 Reach Program Proposal
- 2022-2023 REACH Identification Process
  - testing, rubrics, identification, and appeals

“New to REACH” info session:

- Kerry shared there were over 80 attendees at the “New to REACH” ZOOM presentation on August 23rd.
- Kerry clarified there was an error when explaining how students in the Dual Language program are identified and placed into REACH Math and ELA.

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- a. Students are able to enroll in both the Dual Language program & REACH program at Fischer if they meet the program requirements for ELA and/or Math.
- b. In 3rd grade, the Dual Language program shifts math instruction to predominantly English for any math class the student is in.
- c. In ELA REACH courses, large group mini-lessons will take place in English and small group instruction can take place in Spanish or English.
- d. Students can submit materials for either Math or ELA courses in the language of their choice.
- e. The REACH teacher at Fischer is bilingual.

REACH program proposal - on pause at least for this year and next year. When the program will be updated, all stakeholders will be part of the planning.

Identification REACH for the 2021 - 2022 school year:

- Grades K-8 will be taking the MAP test 3 times during the school year: Fall/September, Winter/January, and Spring.
- 2nd and 5th-grade students will take the CoGat test in December.
- REACH Identification schedule:
  - Feb 1st - notifications of placement/identification are sent to families
  - Feb 15 - deadline for appeals
  - March and April - re-testing and appeals process
  - June - families receive a decision on appeals
  - August - new families to district undergo placement/identification process
- Identification Rubrics - any changes to current rubrics will be discussed at the Oct REACH PG meeting (i.e., how will the Spring MAPS testing be utilized in the rubric or will it just be utilized in the appeals process?).

Families are encouraged to ask their child's teacher for specific MAP Math scores for each one of the MAP subject areas and use those scores in Khan Academy for a more personalized learning experience (e.g., work on "opportunity areas").

Feedback was given to Kerry that we feel there is an opportunity for teachers/schools to make better use of the MAPS scores for individualized/differentiated learning opportunities.

Feedback was given to Kerry to look into Middle School French program given one teacher is teaching all MS and therefore, it is mostly done via zoom (e.g., 2 weeks virtual, 1 week in person). Concern was raised over the standard of learning and how that will impact High School French placement and success.

President Report ~ Sarah Jensen (15 mins)

District / PTA Council Updates

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- The goal is to get a BOE representative to come to the REACH parent group meetings.

Confirmed 2021-2022 [REACH School Rep List](#), [REACH Rep R&R](#), and action items

- School reps to meet with their REACH teachers and principals during September to discuss support opportunity areas.
- The REACH Parent Group wants more dialogue and involvement with the teachers and to be able to share and showcase some of their work.
- REACH school representatives to meet with REACH teachers and Principals and find out if they would like to join the Parents Group meetings and share some of their work in the October 7 pm ZOOM (e.g., elementary math and/or ELA enrichment projects). Reps to let Sarah know as soon as possible.
  - we will send out a Teacher SignUp Genius to share enrichment work with REACH PG (Oct/Dec/Feb)

Discussed 2021/2022 REACH PG Goals and Areas of Focus

- To provide parent and student resources for our gifted and advanced learners
  - We agreed to continue supporting math enrichment opportunities at the Elementary School Level  
Mathletes:
    - REACH reps to ask teachers (and principal) if they are interested in helping support some of the enrichment programs and make them more teacher-driven vs. parent-led (e.g., Elementary School Mathletes). Schools have a limited number of stipends for after-school activities and clubs, clarify where math fits in and if there are stipend opportunities?
    - Gina Padgett suggested that D205 coordinate the Noetic program district-wide given the interest in Elementary Schools and a more 'consistent approach'.
    - Reps to discuss with teachers and principals enrichment for 2nd-grade students.

Family Math Night:

- REACH reps to discuss the possibility of hosting.
- High school honors students could be available to help with math night and other enrichment programs and get service hours.
- Kerry to explore if the district house the math kits so they are easily accessible (currently in Patti's basement).
- Gwen to explore reviewing all kits and determining what needs to be added to them/updated (in a central location, not her house!)
- We agreed to explore ELA enrichment support. Ideas discussed were:
  - Spelling bee contest at the district level.
  - Battle of the books

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- It was suggested that each school has a math and ELA specialist to discuss enrichment for all students.

### **Reps to share feedback from teachers and principals at the October meeting.**

- Middle School Reps to meet with Principal and REACH teachers to discuss if IML was used and what the feedback was
  - Bryan appears to take it and run with it; not sure about Sandburg and Churchville.
- REACH Teacher Resources/Support Wish Lists
  - Reps to work with teachers and identify resource and support needs
    - Teacher wish list ideas (\$125 Elementary School Teachers and \$200 Middle School Teachers)
- Share Executive Functioning 4 Part Speaker Series was shared with the PTA Council and Dr. Campbell. There was a lot of interest. More to be decided in the coming month.
- Illinois Association for Gifted Children Conference (Sat 10/16/21)
  - Looking for a parent volunteer to attend and report back. If interested, email Sarah (sljensen@me.com); registration is done and fees are paid for. (8 am-4 pm) - review date?

### Guest Speaker ~ Center for Gifted, Vickie Kiamco (15 mins)

- Shared upcoming opportunities/course offerings
- The courses supplement the school curriculum. The classes are not restricted to reach students.
- Student-teacher ratio - 1/18 during a non-Covid year (potentially an aide); 4-5 kids/class during the pandemic.
- We will post a newsletter on our website; parents are encouraged to reach out to Vickie for ideas or small group instruction. She is very willing to work with you on your ideas/needs.
- We will include a blurb for PTA newsletters

### Executive Team Reports (15 mins)

#### Finances:

- Miena to send reimbursement form to reps for wish list ideas.
- Middle School reps to find out who is doing IML? Bryan - Ms. Bolur runs IML (Illinois Mathematics League)
- Finance ~ Miena Hall to review \$2,300 budget
  - Reps and/or teachers-submit [reimbursement form](#)

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- REACH Teachers budgeted \$600 for MS (\$200/school) and elementary (\$125/school)
- Mathletes/IML currently budgeted \$360 for MS (\$120/school)
- Mathletes/IML currently budgeted at \$640 for Elementary (\$80/school)

Funds are available to replenish some of the math kits.

### Questions and/or Comments

#### UPCOMING REACH PG MEETINGS:

- Thursday, September 9th in person, 1-2 pm.
- Thursday, October 14th ZOOM, 7-8 pm.
  - focus: teachers to share enrichment work; best practices, more info on REACH identification Rubrics
- Thursday, November 11th ZOOM and In-Person, 1-2 pm. with Dave Beedy, Eric Westenburg
  - focus: Math Pathways, student experiences (high school and/or college)
- Thursday, December 9th ZOOM, 7-8 pm.
  - focus: teachers to share enrichment work; best practices
- Thursday, January 13th, in-person, 1-2 pm.
  - focus: appeals process; summer programming
- Thursday, February 10th
- Thursday, March 10th
- Thursday, April 14th
- Thursday, May 12th