



“All Students Learning Well, Without the Loss of Enthusiasm for Learning”

Week At a Glance

March 04, 2019

Mission

Students, Staff, and Community Dedicated to Excellence

Vision

The Marcola School District promotes academic excellence, ethical and responsible citizenship for all its students in a safe, supportive, and enriched learning environment

It looks as if the Marcola community persevered through numerous obstacles to survive the February winter storm. Looking forward to getting teachers and students back in the classroom. With the power out, internet down and being stranded in our homes, we had plenty of time to catch up on reading the books we've wanted to read but never had the time to do so.

I finished two books, “Optimize Your School” by Dr. Lee Jenkins and “Mindset, The New Psychology of Success”, by Dr. Carol S. Dweck. Both books focused on continuous improvement in school cultures that embrace the growth mindset. Dr. Jenkins was my Superintendent and mentor when I began my career in education administration at the age of 31. I couldn't have asked for a better mentor! Together we put systems in place that supported proficiency instruction and assessment based on continuous improvement and focused on growth mindsets. It was in the early 90's that we began using LtoJ charts to show growth based on end of year expectations. Our staff was well-trained to deliver an instructional program that did not give students permission to forget. Our students were assessed continuously on previous concepts they were expected to learn. In fact, they were assessed on end of year learning expectations from the previous year, the current year and even a few questions from future expectations that were not currently taught. These assessments were and still are called LtoJ assessments and were not part of an academic grade, instead the results were used to show continuous improvement.

Too often, I hear parents, teachers and administrators tell me they cannot possibly assess students on concepts taught in the past, because the concepts and expectations for learning were tied to a unit of study that does not have a direct connection to the current unit of study being taught? Or, I hear, “The students should have learned that last year and I don't have time to assess them on last year's expectations.” I have to ask the question, “Why did you take time to teach a concept that you do not expect a student to remember when moving to a



new unit of study?” If it’s not important for a student to remember, let’s not waste time teaching it.

Marcola School District must embrace the continuous improvement model of education with a growth mindset if we want MSD students to receive a quality education. Anything less, will not produce the results we need to have a 100% graduation rate with a 100% success rate for our graduates to be career and college ready.

We (MSD community) will be working on our strategic plan to put systems in place to achieve excellence in education by embracing continuous improvement with a growth mindset.

Upcoming Events:

Date	Event	Description	Time
03/04/19 Monday	Activities Schedule Admin Meeting	See Agenda	10:00 am
03/05/19 Tuesday	Activities Schedule Elementary Staff Mtg.	Agenda (Bill)	7:15 am
03/06/19 Wednesday	Activities Schedule Mohawk Staff Mtg.	STEM room (Agenda)	7:15 am
03/07/2019 Thursday	Activities Schedule		
03/08/2019 Friday	Activities Schedule CPS training	At LESD (All Staff)	8:30 - 4:30
03/09/2019 Saturday	Activities Schedule		