

To: King Staff  
From: Karen MacDonald, Extended Learning Chair  
Re: Year End Report of the Remediation Committee  
Date: May 15, 2013

## **Background:**

An overall goal for King Middle School is to reduce the number of students who do not meet the standards in reading and mathematics by 50% over the next five years. (We are currently in year 2 of this process.) As part of our work towards this goal, professional development at King has focused on learning targets, formative and summative assessments, and standards-based grading—all aspects of Student Engaged Assessment. The entire staff studied [A Repair Kit for Grading: 15 Fixes for Broken Grades](#) as an anchor text for examining our current grading system. In addition, work during professional development time and a course offered after school focused on developing clear learning targets and overall assessment practices. In February of 2012 several staff members and our principal, Michael McCarthy, attended an Expeditionary Learning Institute focused on Student-Engaged Assessment.

In March of 2012, the date for becoming a standards-based school was set - September of 2014. Sub-committees were formed to support this effort. One committee, known as the Remediation Committee, took on the task of examining and expanding remediation opportunities for those students who were not meeting grade level standards. The committee met during the summer of 2012 to plan for school year 2012-2013.

## **School year 2012-2013:**

### **Changes made at King based on recommendations by the committee:**

**Recommendation #1:** We added an additional crew time to the schedule. Day 5 crew has an academic focus. All crew teachers are with their crew during that time. The purpose of this additional crew time is to provide time for individual conferencing, goal setting and a focus on Habits of Work and Learning. Day 2 crew remained in our schedule with a focus on community building.

**Recommendation #2:** Chorus was moved to Wednesday evenings at 6 pm. This allowed about 100 students to take advantage of the Targeted Learning Time during the school day.

**Recommendation #3:** We changed Day 1 and Day 3 Supervised Study Time to Targeted Learning Time. At the beginning of the Targeted Learning Time, those students who are NOT in band or orchestra report to their designated room. In each room there are folders for each student. Within the folder, the students has a packet of Entrance and Exit tickets (developed by the Remediation Committee-standard school-wide) which are used to focus their work. The rough outline for this time is as follows:

- 1:45 The students enter, pick up their folder, and fill out their entrance ticket.
- 1:50 The teacher(s) do a “check-in” with each student to determine the student’s focus for the time and their plan for accomplishing their plan.

- By 2:00ish the teachers are available to help individual students and small groups of students work on targets. Some students may meet with a teacher in another classroom at this time, but the “first line of defense” will be their TLT teacher
- At 2:20 the students fill out the exit ticket which reflects on the work done.
- Folders are left in a specific place in the room so that they are available for crew teachers to review.
- Crew teachers are expected to know what how their crew students are using this time
- The mentor program with Marcia’s students and eighth grade students continued.
- Teachers were encouraged to use Kahn Academy as an online tool for math target support.
- An adapted schedule was developed for tech team.

**Recommendation #7:**

- Sherry Whittemore worked with Parkside/Opportunity Alliance, USM, and Karen MacDonald to coordinate after school learning opportunities at both King and Parkside. Twelve students participated for the entire year (with occasional breaks for sports) and the culminating event is scheduled for May 23rd.

**Recommendation #8:**

- “Back on Track” continued, but was more “fluid” and available as needs occurred. Students who were not taking advantage of extending learning time opportunities received a “Back on Track” letter from guidance/ administration stating that they were required to get academic support after school for up to ten days or until they reached the necessary targets. A house had the option of requesting “Back on Track” for a student directly with guidance. All houses had regular after school times available for students and many had morning times, as well.

**Recommendation #10**

Other new or expanded learning opportunities that took place that were not direct recommendations from the committee:

Read 180 training and some implementation  
 Early Risers Book Club  
 Writing Group for Eighth Grade Fiction Writers  
 Telling Room  
 Early Risers Book Club  
 iGlobal  
 Writing Groups  
 Read 180

**Recommendations made that were not completed:**

Intensives: There was a recommendation to have the sixth grade houses develop small “intensives” experience in mid-winter. (one or two days) The purpose would be to see this in

action, see how this might be used to help students “catch-up” on their targets, and whether this provides a motivating influence. This just didn’t happen.

Regular Meetings of Crew Teachers: One Wednesday session a month was to be devoted to meeting as crew teams to review students, TLT time, and crew time plans. While we probably did meet as a crew once a month, we often focused on other issues as the year went on.

Data Meeting: Only one formal data meeting completed with house teams, Dave Grant and guidance

## **School Year 2013-2014**

The Parkside program will continue for the school year 2013-2014. The current students and families will be asked to recommit. If there are any openings as a result, the openings will first be offered to middle school siblings of those continuing. Next, we will open it to other seventh graders in the neighborhood. We will continue with two days a week for the program.

Extended Learning Coordinator-Catherine Anderson will be focusing on remediation and extended learning opportunities in literacy for King students who are not meeting targets as determined by the NECAP and other assessments. This will be a 1/2 time position.

Connections with other community organizations: Our next “outreach” will be to the Boys and Girls Club.

Summer Learning Opportunities for King students are currently in the planning stage.

At least one house will pilot the idea of having extended learning time as part of the student’s schedule.

Day 5 Crew Time will continue to be refined. During a May staff meeting, data will be collected on the successful ways staff members utilized this time.

We need to strengthen our plan to have regular data meetings with each house to review plans for those students not meeting the targets.

We will continue to stress the importance of ALL ASSIGNMENTS having clear learning targets written at the top.

We will continue to investigate the possibility of having volunteer staff members stagger their work day so that we can provide more extended learning opportunities.

## **School Year 2014-2015**

The Parkside program will continue for the school year 2014-2015. The current students and families will be asked to recommit.

Catherine Anderson will oversee the KPAC program which connects our 7th grade students with the staff at the Boys and Girls Club 2 times per week.

An action team will be developed to explore the different ways that extended learning is used and to generate ideas for schooled systems and structures to maximize extended learning.

Data will be collected from the staff about how to best utilize the additional 180 minutes added to our weekly schedule as part of the new teacher contract.

We need to strengthen our plan to have regular data meetings with each house to review plans for those students not meeting the targets.

# Student Success Contract

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I want to be a successful learner at King Middle School. I want to stay for Power Hour \_\_\_\_\_ afternoons/mornings a week to help me with my learning. I will work on learning targets and HOWLs during this time. I am making a commitment to myself, my teachers and my parents to be the best learner I can be.

**I plan to stay the following days and times for Power Hour:**

Days	Morning by 7:50	Afternoon 2:30-3:30
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		Not available due to teacher meetings.
Thursday		
Friday		

I will report out at my spring conference on my progress. If I am unable to stay or come early, I will let a teacher know. I am aware that if I miss 2 opportunities of Power Hour a teacher will call/email home to let my parents know.

Signature of student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_