

Academic Practices Team Mtg - Sept. 10th 2024

Committee Members: Meghan Booth, Kim Bell, Angela Kaul, Kris Swogger, Anna Aarre, Amy Schillerstrom

Bluffview Montessori Vision Statement

Empowered learners unfolding their full potential as whole and unique persons in a global community.

Bluffview Montessori Mission

Bluffview Montessori School empowers self-directed learning through a materials-based Montessori curriculum that encourages independence and natural curiosity. Bluffview cultivates learners' deep respect for self, community, and a peaceful environment, while nourishing the intrinsic desire for academic, civic, and personal fulfillment.

Attendance: Meghan Booth, Kim Bell, Angela Kaul, Kris Swogger, Anna Aarre, Amy Schillerstrom, Mariah White, Sherry Lohmeyer, Henry Schantzen

Topic	Responsible	Notes	Minutes from meeting
WELCOME! Circle Chat		To empower all voices that are present and create shared ownership and accountability in our committee work.	
Check In - What is something that has been going well so far this year?			
Professional Development			
Sherry would like your thoughts on having an IXL mini-training during a Teacher Meeting --- <ul style="list-style-type: none">- generate some Tier 1 progress-monitoring information.- populating lessons for students that complement classroom instruction- pulling helpful reports- track student progress			
Flag Etiquette			
The state requires schools to adopt a policy around teaching the pledge of allegiance. This is Bluffview's current policy: https://www.bluffviewmontessori.org/wp-content/uploads/531-Pledge-of-Allegiance-1.pdf			

This is based on this state statute: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/121A.11>

The board has waived the requirement to recite the pledge of allegiance once a week at Bluffview.

It currently states:

“Students will be instructed in the proper etiquette toward and respect for the flag. The flag will be displayed, the text of the Pledge will be made available to students, and individual students will be allowed to recite the Pledge during the day if they choose to do so. Teachers and school staff will provide support and guidance to individual students as necessary and as appropriate.”

The board would like more information about what each level does (if anything) around teaching the pledge/flag etiquette before they finalize the policy in October.

- CH - has a flag on the wall; do the flags of the world; not etiquette; more at the level of recognizing which flag it is; if students ask they will go into it; don't have it printed because they are unable to read the actual words; respect for all materials can cross over into respect for the flags
- E1 - does not teach flag etiquette; important things are to respect the flag, not a toy, what it is a symbol of; found there are many pieces to flag etiquette; they each have a laminated copy of the pledge
- E2 - have a mounted flag; don't have pledge posted anywhere; when they talk about the Revolution, students can explore the symbolism of the flag as an extension; when talking about how other cultures show respect, they can discuss the symbolism of our flag
- ErdK - when teaching the Revolutionary war and western expansion
- Questions - Does the citizenship test for the United States say anything about the Flag?

The board would like to see some type of “flag etiquette” taught at each level as part of Montessori “grace and courtesy”.

Big Picture Tasks			

**October -
Review MCA and Fastbridge Data**

November -

One of the main tasks that has been asked of us this year is to review and adjust the Mentor/Mentee handbook/program.

- What parts do we feel are not useful to most people
- What is essential for “new to teaching” teachers
- What could be eliminated for “veteran” teachers
- Is there anything we should add?

[Mentor Handbook](#) --

[Mentee Handbook](#) --

Everyone will take time to look through these before the November meeting and come with opinions and questions.

Additional Business?

When will we be receiving the Core log in information? Will it be kicked off as a large group or individually?

Closing