The Process

Meeting Dates

- Convening of Committee  Spring 2017
- June 2, 2017, July 6, 2017
- Parent / Community Forum - June 19, 2018 5pm, August 6, 2018 10am; 1pm, August 15, 2018 10am; 1pm
- Jan. 15, 2019 – Joint Meeting of Full Committee
- Feb. 4, 2019 - Joint Meeting of Full Committee

Participants

- District Administrators
- School Principals
- Assistant Principals
- Teachers – Pre K, elementary, middle and high school levels
- Department Chairs
- Counselors
- Parents
- Graduates
- Mt. Vernon Federation of Teachers
Highlighting Major Changes

Old Standard Operating Procedures

• A student can be retained once from grades 3-8
• Lowest grades for marking periods: 60, 55, 55, 55
• Percentages for grades are up to the individual teacher (50% tests, 20% Homework...)
• Students who take a Regents class may or may not take the accompanied Regents exam

New Standard Operating Procedures

• A student can be retained once from grades K-8
• Lowest grade for first 3 marking periods is a 55. Last marking period is a true average of student work
• Uniformed percentages for all core content subjects throughout the district.
• Students who take a Regents class must take the accompanied Regents exam. Absentees will be have a zero averaged as 20% of their 4th MP grade.
GRADING POLICY: Grades Pre K - 5

Pre Kindergarten

- Progress reports that support early childhood development given out during marking periods 2, 3, 4

Grades K-5

- Standards Based Report Cards
  - 4 - Student demonstrates an in-depth understanding of concepts, skills and processes taught and exceeds the required performance.
  - 3 - Student consistently demonstrates an understanding of concepts, skills and processes taught
  - 2 - Student is beginning to demonstrate an understanding of concepts, skills, and processes taught
  - 1 - Student does not yet demonstrate an understanding of concepts, skills and processes taught
GRADING POLICY: Grades 6-12

Only academic performance and level of progress should be used in determining course grades.

For four Core Courses, grades will be calculated as follows:

50% - Exams and Quizzes including Midterms and Finals  *Midterms make up 20% of second marking period and Finals will constitute 20% of fourth marking period. Midterms and Finals will be administered during class time. Midterms are encouraged to be project based. Regents may be counted in lieu of Final

20% - Projects, literacy tasks, presentations, portfolios, lab reports

10% - Homework

20% - Class Participation  *90% attendance is the standard. Poor attendance prevents the student from participating in class activities, completing homework assignments and projects, taking examinations and quizzes, etc.

(* Teacher’s grading discretion in non-core courses)
Promotion / Retention Philosophy Procedures

Grades K-8:

• It is the expectation that students pass the four core academic subjects: English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science.

• Promotion to the next grade level equals final report card grade of “65 or better” or at least an Overall Level of 2 in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics on their Competency, Standards-Based report card for the last marking period. The overall competency levels exists in grades K-6 (6th in middle school is numeric)

• Best practices suggest that while overall we try not to retain, sometimes it is necessary. Research suggests that due to the social/emotional effects that retention may have on students, it is best to retain between grades K-2. However, there are exceptions to this practice and sometimes it is required to retain at a later age.
If a student is considered for retention, grade promotion can occur to the next grade if student

• Has been already retained once in Grades Kindergarten (K) through Eight (8).
  
  AND:

• Attends the MVCSD Summer School Program
  • Attend for at least 18-20 days.
  • Earn a grade of “65 (Level 2)” or better in the subject(s) taken.
  • May take a maximum of two (2) subjects in summer school (ELA and Mathematics).

  OR

• Is placed in Strategic Reading and/or Transitional Math for the coming school year if the areas failed were ELA and/or Math,

  OR

• Partakes in a district-mandated intervention program during the school year (such as Academic Intervention Services, Response to Intervention, before/ afterschool intervention program, etc.)
Retention Timeline

• 5-week progress report and/or report card must indicate areas of concern.
• By the tenth (10th) week of school, the teacher must set up a parent meeting informing parents that the student is having difficulty.
• A Letter of Concern will be provided to the parent by the teacher at the end of the second marking period or by February 1st.
• By March 1st a list of potential retentions will be sent to the Central Office Team.
• The teacher shall keep the team informed of the progress of the student.
• Twelve weeks prior to the end of the school year, the teacher shall prepare information on student progress, and the report card will reflect any areas of concern.
• Two weeks prior to the end of the final marking period, a Letter of Decision will be sent to the parents. The parents will be given additional opportunity to schedule a conference to discuss the decision.
Next Steps

• Communicate with administrative team and implement changes
• Create a committee to standardize practices for 6th grade for next school year
• Monitor changes throughout district
• Provide additional professional development for teachers to set up electronic gradebooks and enter all assignments and grades so students and parents can monitor progress