

## **Parent Communications Notes**

### **November 14, 2013**

Dr. Worthington shared information from the "About CMCSS" highlight brochure. He also told the group that Norman Smith Elementary School had received state recognition as the SCORE Prize winner for the year. SCORE (State Collaborative on Reforming Education) recognizes the Tennessee elementary, middle, and high school and school district that have most dramatically improved student achievement.

Dr. Worthington presented information from the State report card on the student achievement data from the past year. He reminded parents that a "C" is the expected level of performance. He noted that high schools do not get ABC scores. He commented that English scores started going down approximately five years ago which would suggest that we need to look at whether we are teaching the way it is being tested. He stated that we have improved in math. He also noted that Advanced Placement scores do not get included as part of a subject's basic scores. Also, eighth graders scores for Algebra I do not count in the Algebra I final score for the high school. Dr. Worthington noted that high school scores are status scores and are not compared to state or other high schools. The scores actually compare the student to themselves and their expected academic growth. He noted that TVAAS scores are an indication of students growing at the academic rate and the achievement scores are an indication of what the student knows at that point in time.

Dr. Worthington stated that indications suggest there is a problem with 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade reading/language arts across the state. This needs to be looked at particularly since teacher licensure is tied to this now. Dr. Worthington commented that our graduation rate is 94% - down slightly, but there have been changes to the graduation requirements. Twenty-two credits are now required for graduation and all special education students must take Algebra I and geometry. All special education and ELL students now have to finish in four years + one summer.

Dr. Worthington addressed a concern from a parent about the PASS curriculum not aligning with what is tested and how student scores have gone down. Another parent asked about students being retained. Dr. Worthington stated that statistics show a high probability that a student will drop out and not finish school, particularly if they are retained more than once.

Parent and Volunteer Engagement Specialist, Esperanza McCrary, provided an overview of the DoDEA Grant CMCSS has received in collaboration with Christian County Schools and the University of Kentucky. Her position is funded by this grant. At the end of the four-year grant, the goal is to develop a strategic model for parent engagement that can be reproduced nationally. Mrs. McCrary introduced the possibility of a smartphone application to help introduce new families in the area to the school district and the community. The group provided feedback as to what would be the most helpful for newcomers.