

JANUARY 2022

HASTINGS HIGHLIGHTS

*The monthly newsletter of highlights in
Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment*



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FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF.**

DR. MCKERSIE

CURRICULUM REVIEW CYCLE

The Professional Learning Committee has been working diligently to design a Curriculum Review Cycle. A Curriculum Review Cycle is a process for examining curriculum, strategically prioritizing key curricular areas, and ensuring a specific work plan. It is meant to be flexible, in response to needs that emerge in real time, while also providing a structure to guide ongoing improvement efforts. A Curriculum Review Cycle will ground our efforts to foster student-centered, aspirational education, support our commitment to continuous improvement in curriculum, instruction, and assessment, and ensure a collaborative process. Please click [here](#) to view our recent presentation to the Board of Education, which highlights our efforts to consider approaches and parameters for curriculum review cycles, investigate current development and implementation efforts underway, and design a Curriculum Review Cycle.

TECHNOLOGY PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Our Technology Plan development process has continued. Prior to the December break, district administrators began drafting portions of the physical plan using the input of the Hastings Technology Committee. Student and parent focus group members were solicited through a survey pushed to the high school student distribution group and the broader Hastings community. Focus group participants were selected using a random number generator. The groups convened and participants provided feedback to the following questions:

- *To what extent are students in Hastings working with technology in ways that are transformative, safe, and ethical?*
- *When you look at the [Computer Science and Digital Fluency Learning Standards](#), where do you see the district's strengths?*
- *When you look at the [Computer Science and Digital Fluency Learning Standards](#), where do you see the district's areas for growth?*
- *Where are there opportunities for improvement with devices and software?*
- *What additional feedback can you provide that will help us to be a strong, innovative district in the area of technology?*

To further inform the plan development, we also reviewed and themed feedback provided by the faculty through a survey that was sent prior to the recent break. We will continue [our efforts to create the Hastings Technology Plan](#). Should you wish to provide input to inform the plan, please feel welcome to email Melissa Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction or Maureen Caraballo, Business Official.

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MARCH TRI-STATE VISIT

In a community letter sent to Hastings families and staff on November 12, Dr. McKersie shared that we are preparing for a visit by the Tri-State Consortium. He also provided information about this valued organization.

"Hastings has been part of the Tri-State Consortium for many years. Tri-State's mission:

The Tri-State Consortium is an alliance of public school districts committed to systems thinking and collaborative inquiry as pathways toward continuous improvement. Working together as colleagues and critical friends, we apply the standards of the Tri-State model to benchmark member districts' progress in advancing teaching and learning. Consortium members support each other through external peer review of programs and practices, study groups, conferences and topic-based seminars designed to deepen professional learning. (Revised 2019)

We are preparing for a Tri-State Site Visit in March 2022. The Chair Council, including teacher leaders and administrators, are developing the essential questions that will guide the external peer review process. At present, the focus is on fostering effective collaboration and communication among and between administrators and faculty. The Site Visits are rigorous endeavors, requiring extensive preparation, and typically produce valuable guidance to school districts. Each visit is followed up in future years to gauge progress.

I am fortunate to be on the Steering Committee for Tri-State. Members of the Steering Committee, as well as the full list of member districts, are listed on the [Tri-State Website](#)."

Logistical preparations for our March 9-11 Tri-State Visit to Hastings are now well underway and we are eager to welcome our critical friends from throughout the region.

We believe that strong, collaborative efforts are critical to foster a professional community that promotes each student's success and well-being. Our visit will be guided by three essential questions related to collaboration that have been designed by Hastings faculty:

1. To what extent, and in what areas, does the district have clear and well-understood protocols for systemic communication in service to a [professional community for teachers and staff](#)?
2. To what extent are stakeholder roles and responsibilities understood and adhered to in service to a [professional community for teachers and staff](#), a shared vision and environment for change, and parent and community support?
3. How might we strengthen protocols, structures and norms to enhance intra-district collaboration in service to a [professional community for teachers and staff](#)?

While our visit will include a document review, interviews with various stakeholders will be the key source for illuminating understanding of the Hastings system for the visiting team. We will be sending out a survey in early February to identify parents who are interested in participating in the Tri-State interview process.