SPARTA HIGH SCHOOL

Home of the Spartans

September 25, 2015

* **Focus on Learning**: I am excited to report that I have formally observed 20 classrooms and have had 20 follow up conversations with members of our dedicated teaching staff. Research by Paul Bambrick-Santoyo and Kim Marshall has found that best practice tied to teacher evaluation involves numerous short visits to all classrooms, followed up with face to face conversations with teachers. Sparta Area Schools has committed to this model. I have found the process significantly more authentic and timely then the previous models that I have experienced as an evaluator, as well as the 10 years I was in the classroom. When observing in our classrooms, I look for evidence of activities worthy of praise, I ask probing questions that come to mind, and I provide ideas for improvement. Within 24 hours, I meet with the teacher and provide face-to-face feedback. At the end of our discussion we commit to an area of focus that I will look for during my next visit.

* **Academic Assembly**: Sparta High School will host our annual Academic Assembly on Wednesday, September 30th, 2015 at 10:30 am in the gymnasium. Students that have earned academic letters will be recognized in front of our school community. Criteria for earning an academic letter are:
  + Sophomores at the end of the second semester who have completed seven semester credits and have a G.P.A. of 3.90.
  + Juniors who have completed fourteen semester credits at the end of the fourth semester and have a G.P.A. of 3.75.
  + Seniors at the end of the sixth semester who have completed twenty semester credits and have a G.P.A. of 3.60. -To graduate with academic honors, a student must not have a “W”, “NM”, “NC”, or “I” grades on his/her transcript.

Families of award recipients have received a letter inviting them to the assembly.

As a result of the assembly, our daily schedule will be altered to ensure all classes meet for an abbreviated time.

1st Period 7:20 am – 8:03 am

2nd Period 8:08 am – 8:51 am

3rd Period 8:56 am – 9:39 am

4th Period 9:44 am – 10:30 am

Academic Assembly 10:30 am – 11:00 am

5th and 6th Periods will run as normal.

* **School Improvement Areas of Focus:** Each year, every public high school in the State of Michigan, submits a School Improvement plan. These plans are very detailed. Essentially, this process involves our staff has conversations around our data profile (survey results and test scores) and responds to the data by setting collaborative goals. For the 2015-16 school year our goal areas are:
  + Homework and Grading Practices
  + Formative Assessment
  + Learning Targets
  + Positive Community Involvement

**ENSURING SUCCESS FOR ALL SPARTANS!**