

**Cortland Area HS Principals Meeting  
Tuesday, January 20, 2015**

**Précis**

**Updates**

- SED [Update](#)

**Meeting Topics**

- **Innovation Roundtable**

- Cortland
  - [9th grade CTE program](#). Students at risk at the end of eighth grade are moving into CTE at an earlier age to try and keep them in school. They are in course with the older kids. Four students are left (after some movement). The students are doing very well at BOCES and back at Cortland High School. The idea is that they might pick up more than one CTE endorsement. In February they will look at the selection process for a continuation of the program. Students have to do well in order to stay in the CTE program. This was a pilot to see how it went. The attached information explains it in greater detail.
  - In the fall, all of the freshman at Cortland JrSr High School were [invited](#) in with their parents for a meeting about the community aspects of school. Next week, field trips to TC3 for all frosh will occur.
  - An incentive format, Renaissance, has been re-established to encourage students to stay involved in High School.
  - GradPoint has been purchased to help with credit recovery.
  - Have eliminated computer labs; all students now have their own laptop.
  - Changing the way they do in-school suspension to match the Homer model. They will do tutoring time more than sitting around.
  - Some teachers are re-writing their units to be Project-Based.
  - Also doing Rachel's Challenge.
- Homer ([handouts](#))
  - They have been exploring CTE at the high school and trying to expand opportunities, especially related to technology. Project Lead the Way offerings are being solidified and expanding. They are working to have a CTE approved pathway in technology. This will prepare students to be college ready but will also help students to be career ready, too. "Entrepreneurship and Management" is a course that was approved last year. They hope their exam actually ends up on the approved list. They are exploring agriculture next. CTE TAC has templates and consultants who can help you with the approval process.
  - They are having increasing success with GradPoint.
- McGraw
  - TC3 comes over and gives the Accuplacer exam to all students.
  - They are trying to expand the use of GradPoint to offer additional opportunities and second chances. It is being used more as an AIS tool rather than credit recovery.
  - Read 180 has worked well to help kids with their reading.
- DeRuyter

- Working on the implementation of their newly developed strategic plan. They now have action groups and teachers stay after school twice per month for action team work – this is time for working on the goals in the strategic plan.
  - Curriculum alignment grades 3-12 is a goal in addition to Social-Emotional Learning. They are also exploring ways to increase student engagement.
  - Many teachers attended Project-Based Learning training and that will lead to more engagement.
  - Some staff “Focus on Freshman” training which looks promising. They have started a 9th grade Academy in which every student has an advisor. Students meet with their advisor each week. There are awards and prizes each quarter. They have decided to do this again with their 9th graders next year while also trying to maintain some contact with students in 10th grade.
  - Communication is always important and they are trying to be sure to communicate all of these things consistently.
  - Had a successful College and career week last week. They went to Cincinnati to join their career fair. There were scavenger hunts and incentives. Alumni came to talk to the kids.
- Marathon
  - They started a “STEAM’ approach in 8th grade, and are block scheduling. There was a little pushback from the community about the different approach but they worked through it. They visited ESM, Tech Valley, and Holland Patent. The teachers in 8th grade are very excited. 7th grade hasn’t been ready, yet. The data about block scheduling has been good – the hardest part is shared staff. Of course, teams need to be trained and supported in order to be effective. Common time for the teachers is the key and has to be built in to the schedule. This team experienced Enterprise America at WCNY. It was a very good experience and is well worth participation. The curriculum and lessons made it easy to do and is flexible about how much you implement.
  - They are working to add more CTE, too. They have a four-year goal to expand these opportunities (including districts working together). This will start with Agriculture but then maybe expand technology.
  - Last year they brought 41 professionals in to talk about careers and professions which was a great day. This year they will do college visits. They intend to then alternate these two events every-other-year. They are also trying to establish internship opportunities for students in the community. One way to manage this is back-to-back study halls which can give students a decent amount of time in a setting.
  - They went to visit the Big Picture School in LaFayette to see how that works.
  - They are looking to update the materials and information they provide to parents about the college application process (and welcome ideas from other schools).
- **Regional Vision for PBL and New Tech Network Schools**
  - [Innovation Tech](#) is up and running
  - New Tech High South School -- plans are proceeding for a September 2016 opening at an alternate location
  - PBLNY 2015 is August 3-5, 2015
  - PBL 101 cohorts being added
  - PBL 401, 402, 403 scheduled for late-winter

- **Roundtable**

- Lining-up schedules is something we should discuss again, soon.
- Is there a way to do cooperative dual enrollment?

**Future meetings (and locations)**

- March 17, 2015 – Summer School
- May 12, 2015 – what do we want our topic to be?