

# **CP Academy Parents Meeting**

## **Parents Meeting, October 18, 2007**

### **Minutes**

Rich Hemphill and Tory Jenner co-chaired the second meeting of the year.

#### **Mr. Bremer gave an overview of the IMP curriculum:**

- The IMP curriculum differs from a traditional math curriculum in that it starts with a problem and goes from there to the math tools that are needed to solve the problem. It has been around since 1989, used in public schools around the country since 1999, and is accepted by UC and Cal State universities.
- IMP was developed from a need for a new way of teaching math and the recognition that new technologies were making it less important to emphasize calculation.
- CP Academy students take IMP 2 through 4 and can choose to take Calculus AB as seniors. Currently 15 students are taking Calculus and doing well.
- IMP students do well on SATs, but not so well on the STAR test, which is heavily tied to a specific, and different, curriculum.
- The problem currently before the CP Academy math department is how to teach to a range of skill levels in each grade.
- For more information on IMP, go to [www.mathimp.org](http://www.mathimp.org).

#### **Mr. Prolo talked about the freshmen IMP2 classes:**

- Mr. Prolo is especially excited about working with an engineering fellow in his classes. A PhD candidate in nano technology volunteers 3 days a week as a tutor and he and Mr. Prolo are developing several engineering units, including building telescopes, building electronics, and making diamonds out of alcohol. The projects fit perfectly with the problem-solving orientation of IMP.
- Parents asked about the issue of students not being focused in the class and Mr. Prolo answered that he wants students to be active, rather than shut down. Sometimes they are boisterous, but they are engaged. Also, knowing that he will have the same students for four years, he sees honing their engagement as a process.
- Mr. Prolo answered other questions from parents including telling us that yes, there is homework 99% of the time, POWs are done in teams but graded individually, in the next unit, students will learn to show their work, and also in the next unit, homework will be in a notebook with a tracking sheet so that parents can check it.

#### **BHS Development Group and fundraising:**

- Chris Byrne, our rep to the BHSDG, told us that Mr. Bremer and Mr. Polo's request for projectors will be paid for by Mr. Slemp. BHSDG is going to focus on soliciting large donations from wealthy members of the community. They will no longer pay for non-academic activities, such as ropes courses and proms. The group is also concerned about small schools, as well as teams and clubs, doing their own fund raising. There was much discussion about the fact that if the BHSDG won't fund some

- activities that groups want to do, the groups are forced to do their own fund raising. It was suggested that the BHSDG should broaden their mission. Several parents will attend the next BHSDG meeting (which happens on the first Monday of the month) to learn more and express their views.
- A large block of CP Academy funds is being used for the WriterCoach connection. We had more than enough coaches at the first session. Chris Byrne suggests that we extend the program to another small school so that we don't lose the coaches and so that we might in the future share the costs of the program. Some parents wondered if the extra coaches could be used to give more time to students who need more help. Karen Davis volunteered to talk to Annie Johnston about both possibilities.

### **CP Academy website:**

- Rich Hemphill reported that the web site is being used more and more, mostly on Monday and Sunday nights. All teachers are participating in putting their assignments on the web site. Other than homework, the most frequently used part of the site is the College Counseling video.

### **Volunteers:**

- The Leadership Council consists of four parents, four students, and four teachers/administrators. It meets on the first Thursday of the month from 5 to 7. Members provide input on how to implement our programs, including allocating resources. At the last meeting, five people volunteered but since they were almost all 9<sup>th</sup> grade parents, we needed a more representative group. Once again, we got the volunteers we needed. They are Janis Berson, Veronica Wallace, Ken Hamik, and Deborah Young.
- Deborah Young and Leslie Pollard volunteered to co-chair the Community Building committee and will take on the organization of a holiday get-together which is already on the calendar for Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.
- We still do not have a chairperson for fundraising and for now several parents will focus on getting involved with the BHSDG.

### **Block Scheduling:**

- Wyn Skeels explained the modified block scheduling that will begin next year. On Tuesdays, students will have 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> periods and on Wednesdays, they will have 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> periods to allow for longer teaching times. The rest of the days will include each class.
- Also beginning next year, advisory periods will be twice a week with the focus being on personalizing the school experience for students. This focus may be redundant for CP Academy which has already developed ways to make school very personal for each students. CP Academy might do some cross-grade level advisories and might use advisory time for portfolio development.
- An parent input meeting to discuss next years changes will be held soon.

### **Announcements:**

- Progress reports have been sent out. Call your counselor, Caren Ohlson, if you haven't received one.
- This year, Irma Parker, will continue last year's successful Parent Connection program, paying \$15 to parents to call the parents of students

- who are struggling to make them aware of help available from CP Academy.
- On Saturday, 11/3, from 10 to 2. Irma will host a program for parents with Barbara Austin, a private college counselor, who will speak and answer questions about college funding.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00. We didn't assign a process observer but everyone agreed that a lot had been accomplished.