

10.18.16

Dear Parents,

Today was a Data Day at CKS. Our faculty spent time reviewing and analyzing our students' MAP scores. This is important for our children's education. Incorporating Data Days into our schedule provides teachers time to identify trends, as well as to review curricular programs at our school. It also helps teachers better prepare for individual student needs and overall classroom instruction. Mrs. Michelle Klein's expertise in MAP assessment helps our teachers identify where improvements need to be made.

Taking time to work in class-level groups and to set priorities in curriculum and instruction reveals important topics to examine. Our faculty identified student outliers on the MAP tests, and discussed how to better reach students at both ends of the spectrum. They reviewed the impact of small-group instruction and centers, both of which reinforce independent skills. In addition, they discussed the importance in using common language, activating prior knowledge, and incorporating more problem-solving into the curriculum.

Giving teachers the time to collaborate and brainstorm solutions is vital to improving our educational programs. Today the faculty conversed about ways to advance vocabulary application and about how changing assessment formatting can help students write more effectively. They continued to talk about formative assessment and how it guides instruction, and about the importance of student and teacher reflection.

Parents, thank *you* for this opportunity. I realize that an early dismissal day may cause an inconvenience for some of our families. We hope that continuing to provide Aftercare and Extended Day services helps you on these days. Please know that in-service and professional development days like these are focused on what helps our students achieve and grow. As always, thank you for your support.

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