



Blue Ridge Middle School (BRMS)
Heterogeneous Grouping Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes

Date: January 29, 2014

We believe the purpose of implementing heterogeneous class methodologies in English 8 is to produce increased levels of achievement for all learners and enhance the positive climate of English 8 classrooms at Blue Ridge Middle School.

Members present: Matt Bolen, BRMS Assistant Principal - Chairman; Brion Bell, BRMS Principal; Karin Nixon, BRMS 7th Grade Dean; Allyson White, BRMS 8th Grade English Teacher/Subject Area Lead Teacher (SALT); and Karyn Clark, BRMS parent and current PTO Co- President; Karen Dillon, past PTO President; and Angela Fraser, BRMS parent. **Not in attendance:** Pat Kinney, PhD., Consultant, former Adjunct Professor at the University of Maryland and former Director of the National Child Care Center.

Agenda Item:	Notes:
Welcome & Purpose for the Steering Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Karyn Clark & Angela Frasier - new committee members provided copies of the meeting minutes from August 22, 2012 to discuss the purpose & mission of the Blended Steering Committee.• A copy of the "Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Heterogeneous Classes" available on the website.• Resources on the website discussed - to be reviewed with the committee at a later meeting.• Community in the 2011-2012 asked for data to support the effectiveness of this model.
Community Questions & Comments	No questions or comments brought to the committee.
Overview of Heterogeneous English 8 Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3rd year of Heterogeneous English 8• Content Learning Team (CLT) members are: Gail Gallagher, Eric Kursman, Ginny Walker & Allyson White.• All English 8 classes are heterogeneous. There are two self-contained English Classes, taught by Mrs. Gallagher. The curriculum being used in all classes is planned and implemented by the CLT and is common across all classes.• CLT is administering three writing assignments to assess students growth in the areas of composing, written expression, usage/mechanics, and critical thinking/ argumentation

<p>Virginia Middle School Association (VMSA) & National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)</p>	<p>Allyson White presented the "Differentiated Rubrics in the Heterogeneous Classroom" designed by Mrs. White, Mr. Kursman & Mrs. Walker (8th Grade English CLT) & presented at VMSA & NCTE. (See attached.)</p>
<p>Goals of the Heterogeneous English Program at BRMS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee discussed moving the Heterogeneous model to 7th Grade Language Arts. • Program promotes equity and student growth • Data from 8th grade analysis provides support for the success of the program • Middle school English curriculum is skill-based (reading & writing) & increases in complexity across the three years—so a similar type of curriculum that lends itself to this model • County expectation of reading & writing workshop is implemented in all language arts/English classes (Literacy Journey training) and model developed by the 8th grade CLT provides the foundation • Homework for committee: consider roll out to community (ideas and suggestions) <p>Action Item: Add data collected by 8th grade CLT to the website</p>
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>March 5, 2014 at 10:30.</p>
