ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS GUIDANCE PROGRAM
Redesigning the Ann Arbor Public Schools Guidance Program
Why Redesign Guidance and Counseling?

- Assist in preparing students for the 21st century
- Help all students meet the challenge of high achievement
- A more effective use of trained counselors
- Greater equity and access of services to ALL students
Needs Assessment

- To begin the redesigning process:
- A Zoomerang survey was administered to students, parents, and staff during the 2010 school year
- A guidance needs assessment had not been given in 14 years
For the very first time, a Comprehensive Guidance Advisory Committee was formed

The District Advisory Committee reviewed the needs assessment data, researched different guidance programs and reviewed books and articles
Parent Survey Findings

- Parents would like the following:
- Services related to their children’s future
- Plans in place beyond high school (post secondary), and transition from school to work
- Access to counselors when they have concerns
Student Survey Findings

- Students would like the following:
  - Services related to their future plans
  - Support with making good decisions, improving study skills, and test taking to be successful in their courses
  - Access to counselors when they need help
  - Ways to assist in getting along with peers and adults
  - College entrance requirements and colleges of their choice or plans beyond high school
Teacher Survey Findings

- Teachers would like the following:
  - Counseling services related to crisis intervention
  - Social and emotional support for students
  - Support in identifying classroom strategies
  - Additional tools for working with struggling students
Article: “Why Guidance Counseling Needs to Change”

- Need for college and post-secondary planning which includes financial aid
- Most appropriate post secondary plans based on interest of student
- Use resources to assist students in transitioning to post-secondary (colleges and universities) or school to work
Program Components

- Curriculum Component
- Individual Planning Component
- Responsive Services Component
- Systems Support Component
Traditional Program vs Comprehensive Program

A comprehensive program promotes the concept of a team approach; the counselor is not the counseling department but is the proactive leader for change.
**School Counseling Program**

The new question is ... *“How are students different because of the School Counseling Program?”*

*“Consistent, aligned curriculum, along with collaboration with teachers will improve student achievement.”*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional *</th>
<th>Comprehensive *</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1  Scheduling / Programming</td>
<td>Designing Individual student academic programs</td>
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<td>2  Monitor student progress</td>
<td>Active role in the Achievement Team process</td>
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<td>3  Standard practices</td>
<td>Aligned Guidance Curriculum</td>
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<td>4  Sharing of information</td>
<td>Collaborating with teachers to present guidance curriculum lessons</td>
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<td>5  Career information service</td>
<td>Individual planning and career development</td>
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| 6  Focus generally on the number of activities  
  - Measure the number of activities  
  - Measure the amount of effort  
  - Attend to the process of doing | Focus on outcome and improved results  
  - Measures impact related to goals  
  - Attend to goals, objectives and outcomes |
| 7  Attendance monitoring | Drop out outreach/prevention |
| 8  Independently developing lessons | District-wide standardized lessons |

*Currently there is a combination of Traditional and Best Practices. With the alignment of the Guidance Curriculum, the goal is to consistently use Best Practices to improve student achievement.*
A Parent Brochure was developed by the Guidance Committee and will be distributed to parents.
What Will be Different?

- Aligned guidance curriculum (there has never been an identified aligned curriculum)
- Topic calendar
- Lesson plans
- Lessons delivered in collaboration with faculty, business and post secondary institutions
- Evaluation assessment of guidance curriculum
- Continued work with the Guidance Advisory Committee
- A district-wide Parent Brochure
Next Steps

- Integration of a Whole School Guidance Model
- Identify and remove non-counseling activities
- An annual Needs Assessment and Program Audit
- Ongoing PSD for counselors
- Collaborate with post-secondary and businesses in the delivery of the guidance curriculum
- Implement, review, and refine the guidance curriculum
Questions

Imagine what tomorrow would bring if we all sang one song ........