

The T&L committee of the SAC met early on in the school year to think about how our committee could prioritize our work and support of Teaching and Learning within both the Lower and Upper schools at Masterman. A decision was made that we must take our ideas and test with the individuals who would be affected by our suggestions. We sent out two different surveys to students only AND one survey for teachers, parents administrators and other affiliates. The survey focused on support during this very unique and trying time - pandemic, civil unrest and racial justice, political uncertainty, and on top all that virtual learning!

Students and teachers have had to get to know one another virtually from the beginning. Meeting new people is difficult in any situation, but for new teachers and new students, a virtual setting has exacerbated the difficulty. Additionally, its quite easy to "hide" in a virtual setting where body language and other visual cues are obscured or hard to focus on through the use of the screen and tiled views. The majority of students and affiliates are strongly in favor of a 1 on 1 check in with students and teachers 1x per marking period. Through discussion with the committee members who attended recent meetings, we would like to explore developing check in ice-breakers or prompts for the teachers to support different types of students and styles of connection. We would like to engage with counselors and the DEI specialist hired to support equitable ice-breakers and even develop some type of training webinar or support document to help support teachers to be more transparent and inclusive as they contact the students. We hope that we are able to do this work and be ready with a program by the start of the 3rd marking period.

We also identified a more long term project. It seems that both teachers and students would be in favor of using different methods to assess the overall student understanding of the materials throughout the year. Through discussion with the committee, because of the high favorability, we believe we should work to focus on this but understand that in order to add impact, it will be a more long term project. We also need more research. Our priorities are to listen, take ideas, research and make recommendations that are actionable and well resourced. We also know that Masterman has understandably high standards and will need time and support to take that consideration into account.

We have some infographics to share our findings: Please review the graphic and let a member of the committee know if you have any additional questions about the details within.