

Wooster School

STRENGTH TO STRENGTH 2014-15

FEBRUARY 27, 2014



Wooster School
Where learning is personal, meaningful, and visible.



Can you see thinking and learning happen?
We think so. Visit us and see for yourself.

Wooster School is a Pre-K through 12th grade
co-educational college preparatory,
independent day school.

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PERSONAL
MEANINGFUL
VISIBLE

WHAT IS NOT CHANGING

OUR PLANS ARE FRAMED BY WOOSTER'S HISTORY, AND BY THOSE PHILOSOPHIES WHICH ARE MOST SPECIAL ABOUT THE PLACE:

SELF-HELP

THE JOBS PROGRAM

THE WARNER RULE

CLOSE TEACHER/STUDENT RELATIONSHIPS

PERSONALIZATION OF LEARNING FOR ALL STUDENTS

CULTIVATION OF THE WHOLE HUMAN BEING

WHAT IS CHANGING?

WE ARE NO LONGER “HIDING OUR LIGHT”

WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF WHAT MAKES US SO SPECIAL IS TEACHING AND LEARNING

WE ARE STRENGTHENING THE THREADS OF SKILLS AND DISPOSITIONS

WE ARE STRENGTHENING OURSELVES AS A LEARNING COMMUNITY

WE ARE HOLDING OURSELVES MORE ACCOUNTABLE FOR OUR WORK

WE ARE ASKING ADULTS TO ALWAYS BE LEARNERS

WE ARE NAMING OUR PRIORITIES, BUILDING ON STRENGTHS AND RECOGNIZING WEAKNESS

OUR GUIDING QUESTION

**IS IT GOOD FOR
KIDS?**

PROGRAM PILLARS

SKILLS

THINKING
READING
WRITING
QUESTIONING
SPEAKING
(CONVERSATION)
PROBLEM-SOLVING
IDEATION

CREATION
RESEARCH
COLLABORATION
PRESENTATION
TECHNOLOGICAL

DISPOSITIONS

EMPATHY
KINDNESS
GENEROSITY
HONESTY
CURIOSITY
HUMOR
TENACITY
RESPONSIBILITY

COURAGE
CONFIDENCE
CARE
RESLIENCE
INDEPENDENCE
TOLERANCE FOR
AMBIGUITY

PROGRAM FRAMEWORKS

DISCIPLINES (CONTENT AND CONTEXTS)

DRAMA

MUSIC

MATH

JOBS

ENGLISH

SCIENCE

CHAPEL

HISTORY/SOCIAL
STUDIES

MODERN LANGUAGE

ART

ATHLETICS

CLUBS

STUDENT GOVT.

TRAVEL

ADVISORY

GRADE LEVELS/DIVISIONS

LOWER – PREK – 5

MIDDLE – 6-8

UPPER – 9-12

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Four Priorities

CONTINUITY

COMMUNICATION

TEACHING AND LEARNING

FINANCIAL STABILITY



The Plan Meeting Our Priorities

FOCUSED PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS

REORGANIZATION

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Program Enhancements

Continuity, Teaching and Learning

- 6-12 Writing
- Making Thinking Visible
 - Practice v. Curriculum
- Guidance Program
- Technology
 - Maker Program
- World Language
- Athletics
- International Students Program

Humanities

Purpose?

- Aligning content to promote critical thought about the “big questions” that frame our lives
- Interdisciplinary thinking, multiple fluencies
- More student collaboration, and independent, deeper thinking
- Teacher Collaboration

Plan?

- Expand time available and teacher resource
- Teacher learning and support
- Thinking and writing as core skills
- Flexible teaching for flexible learners
- Visible thinking
- Skills continuum (K-12 Writing, Thinking)

ATHLETICS

Purpose?

- Pull athletics under the umbrella of all programs
- Benefit from collaborative decision-making and implementation
- Enrich programs at Middle School
- Restore Upper School programs
- Expand diversity of available programs
- Improve coaching and connections to summer programs

Plan?


- Shared responsibility and decision-making model for program and policy (DSL, DH)
- Manage athletics in conjunction with other student life programs
- Better utilize staff for administrative functions - scheduler
- Streamline Facilities and field management
- Budget management

What is a makerspace, anyway?

A place to think, collaborate, design, and build.

A space for tinkering, trying, hacking, hammering, challenging, changing, designing, dreaming, soldering, sewing, programming, and partnering.

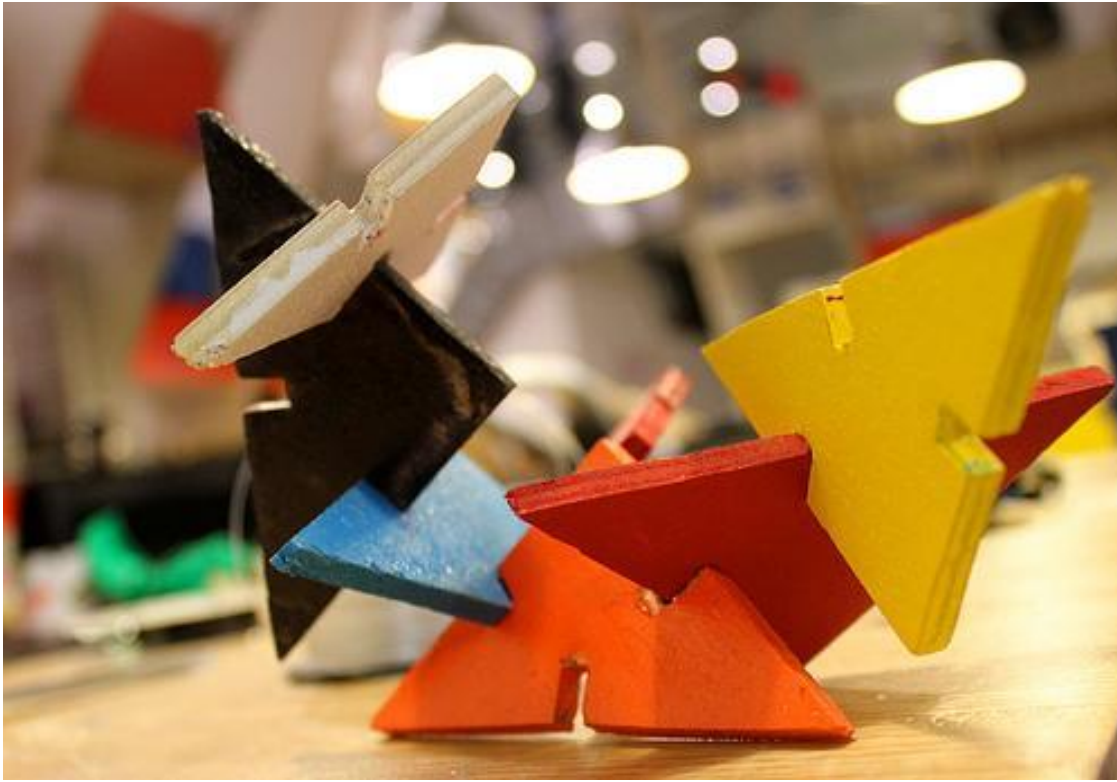
If you can dream it, you can make it in a makerspace!



MacGyver would live here.....



Scalable Complexity



REORGANIZATION

Continuity, Communication, Teaching and Learning, Financial Stability

6-12 Division

- Office of Student Life
- Teaching and Learning
- Curriculum
- Athletics

Reframing Prospect

What We Still Have

SEPARATE DIVISIONS

RATIONALE

Positions following Priorities

Shared, Unified Philosophies

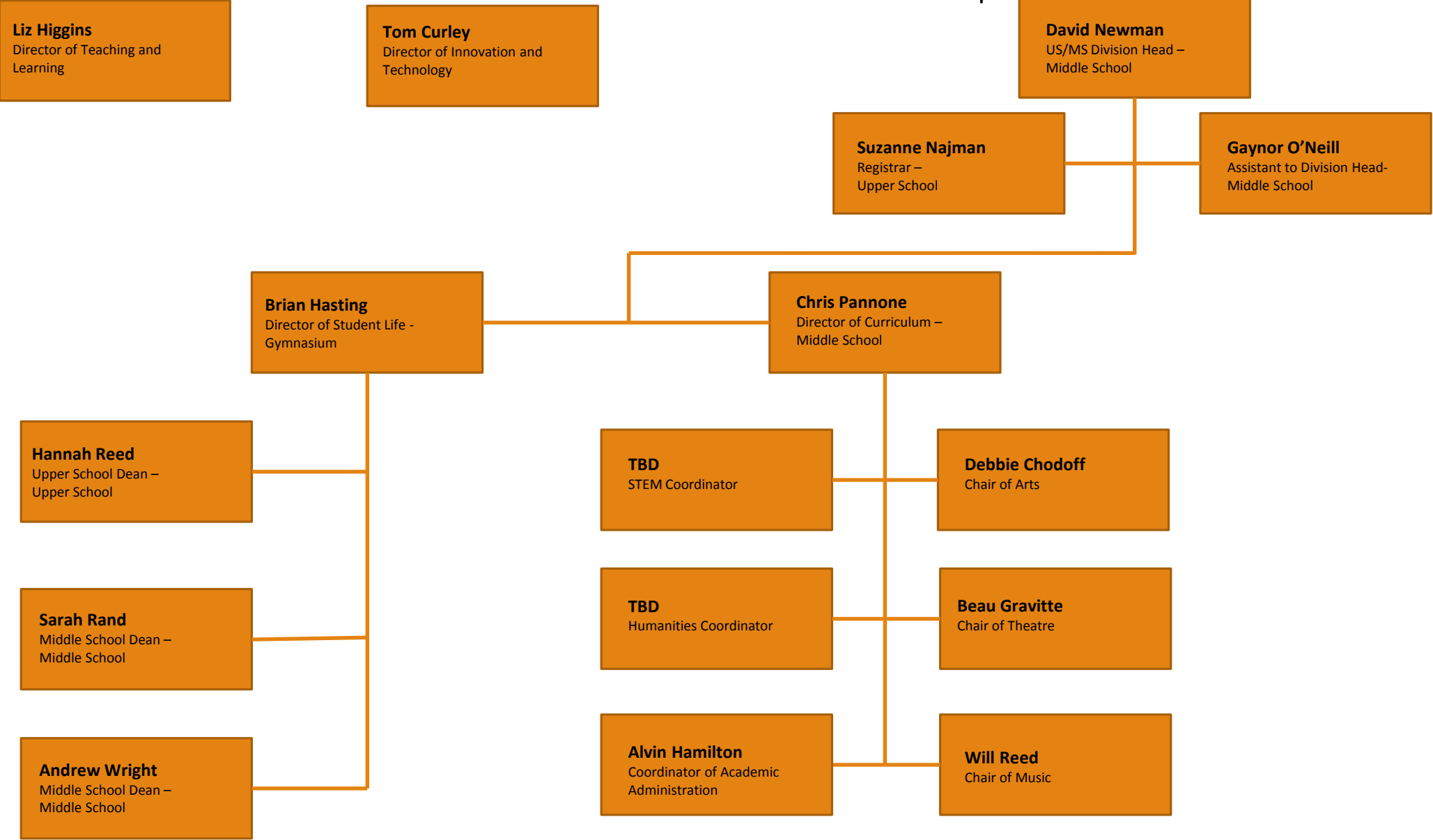
Shared Decision Making

Program Continuity

Academic Continuity

Developmental Continuity

Academic Leadership



SHARED LEADERSHIP 6-12

CURRENT TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE ALLOCATION: 7.3 Full time

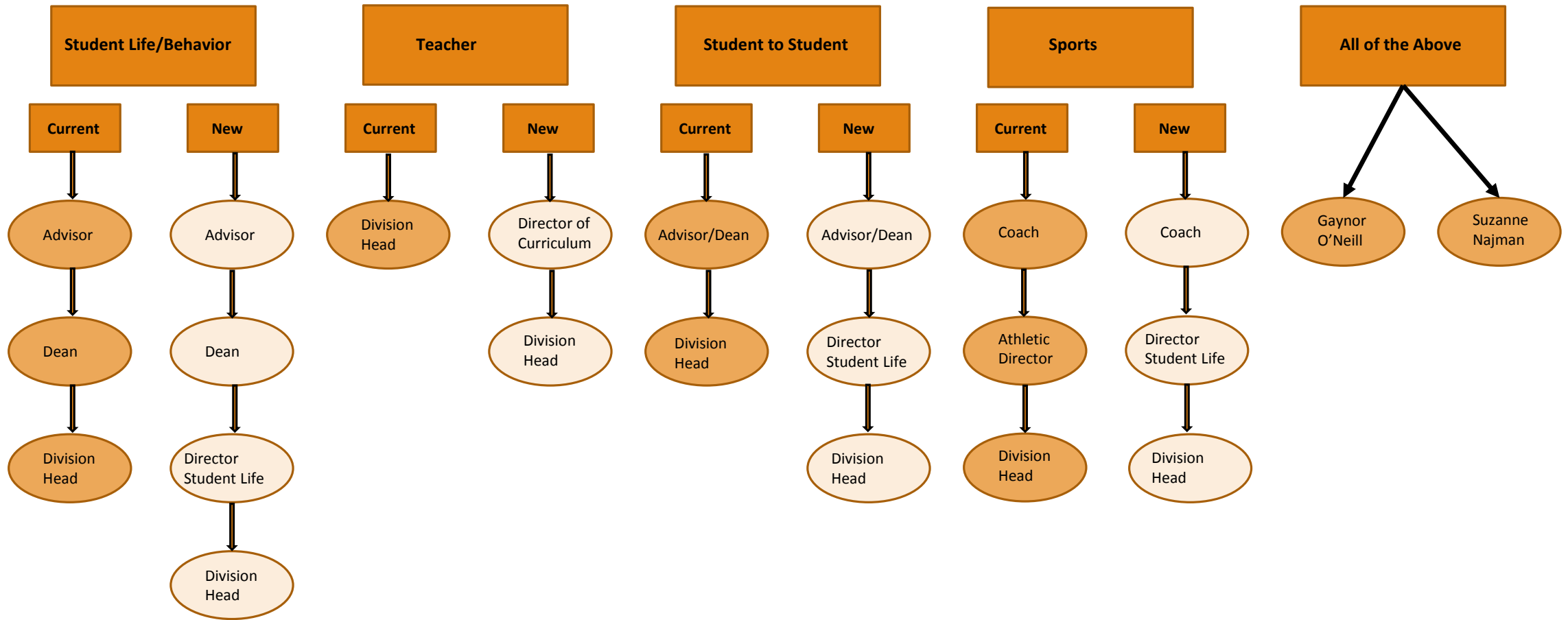
FUTURE TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE ALLOCATION: 8.6 Full time

- Less Division Head time
- Added time: US/MS Deans, Director of Curriculum (Dean of Academics)
- New Position: Director of Student Life, Director of Innovation, Scheduler

TEACHER LEADERS

WHAT'S THE VALUE OF AN INVOLVED HEAD OF SCHOOL?

What if I Have a Problem or Question?



6 – 12 Leadership

- Responsible Resource Allocation
- Shared Responsibility
- Good Problem, Hard Decision
- Site-based Leadership

PROSPECT SCHOOL TO PROSPECT PROGRAM

- Data-based Decision Making
- Strength to Strength
- Growth Potential
- Proximity

Lower School Leadership

- Natural contraction
- Responsible Resource Allocation
- Good Problem, Hard Decision
- Site-based Leadership

Teacher Professional Learning

Continuity, Teaching and Learning

- Making Thinking Visible
- Teachers College Writing Program
- Singapore Math
- New Teacher Training
- Project-based Learning

Growth Management

Communication, Financial Stability

- Building enrollment capacity in the US/MS
- Natural levels in Lower School
- Brand and message matter
- Programs matter
- Process matters
- Admissions and Financial Aid Management

Creating a new process – Mid-year Enrollment

Marketing Targets? Backyard

4 Ridgefield, 2 Wilton, 1 N Salem, 1 Redding, 1 Trumbull, 1 Weston

Growth Management Targets? MS/US

5 US, 4 MS, 1 LS v. 1 US, 0 MS, 6 LS

Financial Targets? It's Worth It.

Achieved 100% of Budgeted Mid-year Revenue –First time
in 6 years.....

Strengthening the Threads of Teaching and Learning

- Thinking as a core skill
- Writing as a core skill
- Problem-solving as a core skill
- Ideation/Creation/Making as a core skill
- Continuity as a priority

Communication

- Strength to Strength
- Administrative Reorganization
- We Hear You

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