



Agriculture Education Returning to Mooresville

In a presentation to the Mooresville School Board, MHS Principal Brian Disney and Assistant Principal Jennifer Perkins outlined a plan not only to bring agriculture education classes back to Mooresville, but to expand the program beyond its previous scope. Their presentation outlined a schedule to bring a combination of instruction, supervised agriculture experiences, and the FFA program to MHS.



“The agriculture curriculum will provide numerous career opportunities for our students in the highly technological and expanding life sciences industry,” said Superintendent David Marcotte. “The Mooresville community is the perfect setting for establishing a high quality ag program.”

The return of agriculture education would not only include traditional high school coursework in plant and animal sciences but also possible dual credit coursework with Ivy Tech for the Advanced Life Science classes. In addition, Mooresville’s program would become part of the Area 31 Career Center program. Mooresville is part of the area career center along with 10 other high schools to provide advanced coursework in specific career areas.

“We are very excited to bring back this educational opportunity for our students and community. This will enhance our elective course offerings in preparing our students for college and careers,” said Principal Disney. He noted that agriculture teachers are in high demand and that Mooresville would like to advertise for a new teacher as soon as possible to attract high quality candidates. That request was approved by the school board and the position is currently open.

In addition to agriculture courses, this will mark the return of the National FFA Organization to the school district. The FFA program includes educational events and competitions for students in a wide variety of agri-science areas such as horticulture, livestock and forestry as well as areas such as leadership and parliamentary procedure. Disney noted in his presentation that FFA is not just for students who live on farms. The national organization currently has a membership which includes 38 percent females, 23 percent minorities, and 34 percent living in urban and suburban areas.

“These programs will provide a wealth of opportunities to our students,” said Superintendent David Marcotte. “We’re excited to see the return of blue FFA jackets with ‘Mooresville, Indiana’ on them at our campus.”

To help develop the program and plan for necessary resources, MHS will distribute a student survey about agriculture programs in the next few weeks. A community meeting about the return of agriculture education will be held in November. The public is invited to attend and give input on the program. Those who might be able to help with future supervised agricultural experiences for students (work with farms, agri-science programs, nurseries, environmental science programs, alternative energy programs, livestock programs, etc.) are also encouraged to attend the meeting. Those who are unable to attend but would be interested in more information should contact Brian Disney.