



Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment November 2019 Newsletter

In this issue... Eastside and Pilot Butte Elementary: Digital Citizenship, Northpark Elementary: Kindergarten PLC, PBIS at Stagecoach Elementary, EL Division Meeting, Title I PD, Title III PD, What's Going on With the District Department Chairs, Accreditation: What is Efficacy, We the People: Civics Training, FLLA: AARP and Young @ Heart Senior Center, Northpark Elementary: 4th grade Field Trip to Mountain Man Museum, Westridge Elementary: Wacky Science Night, District Assessment System, School Improvement/District Plans, Formative Assessment: WY-TOPP Modular and November Calendar



Sweetwater County School District #1 will create and foster academic success through partnerships with its schools, community and families.

- Increase student and family awareness of educational and career opportunities in Sweetwater County and beyond.
- Instill and reinforce employability skills and a drive for learning.
- Recognize and celebrate student, family, community and employee contributions.



Sweetwater County School District #1 will nurture a positive learning climate and culture.

- Promote positive behaviors and relationships among students, staff, families and the community.
- Ensure schools are safe and secure.
- Proactively support physical, mental and emotional health.

Sweetwater County School District #1 will create and foster academic success through partnerships with its schools, community and families.

Eastside and Pilot Butte Elementary: Digital Citizenship

Eastside and Pilot Butte Elementary Schools held an event on Wednesday, October 16th. The event was focused on digital citizenship, where parents and students came and learned about online safety and parenting in a digital age. The evening had two sessions for both parents and students. The sessions were led by Ryan and Kaden Allen, Matt Hanson, and Officer Baker. We want to thank the four presenters for sharing their passion and taking time to prepare and present the information. The evening had a great turn out at Eastside Elementary for the event.

Between the two sessions, the chili cook-off happened in the gymnasium. We had chilis from both elementary schools, as well as local agencies. Parents and students went around and tasted all the different chilis and voted for their favorite. When the chili cook-off concluded, the favorite was voted on and the winner was the Rock Springs Fire Department chili. Congratulations to the RSFD for the wonderful chili. We also wanted to thank all involved in volunteering time and chili for the event.

At the end of the evening, we had a drawing for two Kindle Fires. As parents and students attended sessions, they were given a ticket for the drawing. Two lucky winners were presented with a Kindle Fire, which were donated by Dominion Energy.

A special shout-out thank you to our wonderful counselors who organized the event. The Eastside and Pilot Butte counselors are Matt Hanson, Teresa Klatka, Jessica Castillo, and Kim Drane.

We would also like to thank others listed below for helping with the event: Western Wyoming Community College, Rock Springs Police Department, Rock Springs Fire Department, Dominion Energy, SCSD#1 Information Technology, SCSD#1 Print Shop, Allen Family, Mr. Hanson, Officer Baker.

Thank you all for a wonderful and informative evening.

Article by Ron Urbin
Principal at Pilot Butte Elementary
Picture by Tina Searle



Sweetwater County School District #1 will nurture a positive learning climate and culture.

Northpark Elementary: Kindergarten PLC



Principal Carrie Ellison and the Kindergarten teachers meet on a regular basis to review student data, analyze student work samples, set SMART goals and identify high yield strategies to improve reading proficiency. During a recent meeting the teachers were examining pre-assessment data aligned to a district assessment. They noted that many of the students were “almost there” and focused on the importance of

incorporating specific vocabulary instruction and working toward students knowing beginning, middle and end of the story. They selected a common strategy to improve instruction based on feedback from the administrator that guided them to select a similar focus as the 1st grade teachers in order to work toward vertical alignment. teachers have students monitor their own goals through data notebooks which show a continuum of a student’s progress.



PBIS at Stagecoach Elementary

At Stagecoach’s PBIS October meeting we took time to drill down and discuss SWIS data. The team discussed problem behaviors between grade levels, times of days, and locations. The PBIS Team pulled out strategies from our Recess handbook and PBIS handbook to reinforce behaviors to bring down SWIS data at highest times of the day. Teams were emailed and follow-up reteaches will be given for the remainder of the month. The team then discussed our school-funded backpack program concerning the number of students, needs of our families, and donation of backpacks from Wyoming Work Warehouse. Team decided on the themes for our Harvest of Love food drive that will keep the backpack program running for the next few months. The PBIS team finished with the discussion of our Applebee’s fundraiser that will fund teacher/student prizes for positive behavior supports within the classroom.

Article by Jennifer Martin-Palacios Principal at Stagecoach Elementary

EL Division Meeting, Title I PD and Title III PD

Title I

Title I teachers have met twice this month once on October 15th and for ½ day professional development on October 18th. Training was conducted by Tammy Macy on Acadience testing and also on reviewing data, and establishing groups. Title I teachers also received a review on Title I Crate which is our data warehouse for all Title I required material for the district. The Title I teachers are also involved creating a district Title I department through the PLC process and began this journey on October 18th by establishing their norms. In, December we will be working on the department vision statement.

English Language Learning



EL teachers have been involved in district, state, and national trainings and they met on October 18th for a ½ day training and on October 23 for full day district training. Trainings included presentations by Jess Binning from WDE to update teachers on changes in legislation with ESSA, testing updates for WIDA and provide a variety of resources to use with our English Language Learner population. Imagine Learning also provided training with a focus on having our Level I and II students taking the benchmark assessment by October 31, 2019. The EL teachers are also working through the PLC process and developing a district department. They completed their norms and will begin work a mission statement. EL teachers began working on their curriculum maps last year and will

continue the process this year. We had three people attend the WIDA conference and they shared what they learned and gained at the conference. We had 1 building administrator and 2 EL teacher attended the national conference.

Update on number of Active EL students in Sweetwater County School

Students who have exited the active EL status based on their ACCESS test scores are required to be placed on monitoring status. Monitoring status for our district is for four years and focuses on the students’ academic progress, to ensure that they have not been prematurely exited and that they are meaningfully participating in the LEA’s standard educational programs comparable to their other students

Total Sweetwater #1 Active EL students	Number of Monitor Students
311	161

Understanding Creativity Assessment Real-Life
Engaging Rigor Learning Critical Thinking Relevant Resources
Thinking Goal Setting Collaboration Relationships
Communication Life 21st Century Reflection
Culturally Responsive Teacher Students
Bloom's Social Problem Solving Authentic Differentiation Standards Instruction
Meaningful Experimental DOK Real

New Teacher Support: The [district department chairs](#) are tasked with supporting new teachers in the classroom. District department chairs will be reaching out to spend a day with their new teachers. The chairs can support instruction, give feedback and help with lesson planning and flow just to name a few. Also, new teachers can request support for a variety of things in their classrooms. Check with your [department chair](#) for more information.

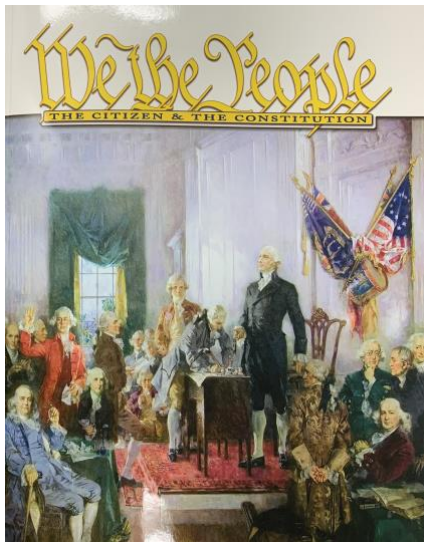
For more information, contact your [secondary department chairs](#).

Efficacy is the ability to produce a desired or intended result. Teacher efficacy means that a teacher believes that they can guide students to success. According to Hattie's *Visible Learning for Teachers*, collective teacher efficacy has the greatest impact (effect size of 1.6) on student achievement. Teachers who have a high self-efficacy are teachers who can push through failure, are more open minded and supportive with students. They are teachers who work together, feel valued, confident and successful. A teacher who lacks efficacy is less likely to try new teaching strategies, push through struggles in learning.

- Being actively involved in the right work in your PLCs
- Be involved and reflect on your professional learning
- Recognizing teacher successes and achievements

A cartoon illustration of a turkey dressed as a Pilgrim. The turkey has a large blue hat with a black band and a gold buckle. It has a pink face, a red wattle, and a red beak. Its body is brown, and its tail feathers are yellow and brown. It is standing on two red feet. The background is a light orange color with several autumn leaves in shades of brown, orange, and green.

We the People—Civics Training



Teachers in the 5th grade and 9th through 12th grades participated in a training on a civics education program called “We the People” during the October 18 Professional Development day. Presenters, Matt Strannigan, Eric Freeman and Jillian Fanning shared information about the history of the program, benefits for students, their teachers and the schools that participate.

Throughout the training, presenters shared strategies to introduce civics education to students, text walk-throughs and simulated hearings the students will experience. Teachers engaged in a writing exercise, panel simulation and received feedback from peer judges. All of these activities were aligned in providing a more engaging and complex understanding of civics in an authentic setting.

Teachers interested in learning more about the program are encouraged to attend future panel competitions held across the state in Casper on December 16, 2019 and in Cheyenne on January 13th, 2020.

For more information, contact Wanda Maloney, Chief Academic Officer at maloneyw@sw1.k12.wy.us.

Fire Law and Leadership Academy: AARP and Young @ Heart Senior Center Field Trip

The AARP asked the FLLA if we could send some students to help the visitors at the Young @ Heart Senior Center to help people that were attending that day with all of their ‘digital’ needs Texting, calling, downloading applications, Snapchat, Instagram, etc. It was a great learning environment for both the students and the people that attended the working lunch. The students really had a great time and I believe the people that they helped enjoyed the day as well.

Thanks goes to the people at AARP, Young @ Heart and the sophomore FLLA students who attended and helped that day.

Submitted by John Cundall FLLA Director



Northpark Elementary- 4th Grade field trip to the Museum of the Mountain Man

Tuesday, October 22, 2019 the 4th grade classes from Northpark visited the Museum of the Mountain Man to view artifacts from Native American exhibits, and exhibits about the Mountain Man way of life.

Students participated in a scavenger hunt to locate, sketch, and write details about various exhibits in the museum. Students and parents alike enjoyed and shared details from this field trip with their parents at conferences on the 24th and 25th.

This field trip aligns with the fourth-grade social studies standards of SS.4.4 – Students will analyze events (past & present), people, problems, and ideas within their historical context.

Students will continue to learn more about the mountain men and the indigenous tribes of Wyoming and will conduct research and write reports with the culminating activity of Frontier Days in the spring where students dress as the person that they researched.



Westridge Elementary: Wacky Science Night



Westridge Elementary held their Wacky Science Night on October 9th. This event was an opportunity for parents to participate with their child while learning about the scientific process. There were seven different stations which included dancing raisins, snakes and spiders, make your own trail mix, creepy feel boxes, building structures with candy corn pumpkins and popsicle sticks, I see orbs, and airplane building with straws and paper. Students and parents selected the stations they wanted to go to. Each station was planned by a grade level teacher. Depending on the station, the students and their parents made predictions, conducted the experiment and then discussed their conclusions. For example, at the Snakes and Spiders station, the parents and the children saw and touched a variety of snakes and spiders. They discussed their habitat and interesting facts about the snakes and spiders that were on display. At the snack station, each student selected the ingredients to make their own trail mix. This was a very interactive and fun evening.



District Assessment System

By state statute, the district must have a District Assessment System (DAS) in place. The requirements of the DAS are to ensure that the content and performance standards are aligned both content and cognitive complexity, being taught, assessed and levels of proficiency assigned and reported to students and parents. Sweetwater #1 must have a policy in place to meet or exceed minimum graduation requirements established in Chapter 31. Lastly, there must be a process in place to review and update the assessment system as state standards change.

The DAS in Sweetwater #1 has been evolving and changing over the past few years. Following the [long-range plan](#), the district will continue the process of curriculum mapping, validation, common assessment writing and resource adoption. The district has fully implemented the curriculum maps aligned to the state standards and will have common assessments in place next year for all grade levels and content areas.

The district will be collecting the common assessment data during the 2019-2020 school year. The data will be entered by PLC groups in each building. More information to come.

To see the District Assessment System, [please click here](#).

School Improvement Plans/District Improvement Plans

For the 2019-2020 school year the district improvement goals are:

- The district will increase the number of schools in the *"Meets or Exceeds Target"* in the growth category from 10 to 17 (all) and increase achievement by 10% as measured by the spring 2020 WYTOPP ELA, Math and Science summative assessments.
- The district will strengthen school safety measures across schools and the community through continuous training, open communication and clear, rehearsed protocols.

The district will be supporting the work of these goals by providing a guaranteed and viable curriculum, providing time and training on professional learning communities, providing professional development opportunities for all staff via academies with targeted ELA PD for kindergarten and 5th grade this year and in science grades 4th-12th. Also, the district will support PBIS and student advocacy as well as ongoing safety training. One safety emphasis is the implementation of a cloud-based content filter to support the 1:1 computer adoption. To support student achievement and growth, the district will proactively support the physical, mental and emotional needs of staff and students.

All school plans and the district plan were approved by the board of trustees at the October board meeting. To view the plans in detail, [please click here](#).

Formative Assessment: Modular WY-TOPP

There have been over 1000 ELA modular assessments given in grades 1-10 and about 850 modular assessments in Math in grades 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8. Modular assessments are short assessments that assess specific topics or skills. The purpose of modular assessments is to inform instruction in the classroom based off of immediate student results.

If you or your PLC would like assessment training or training on how to use the results, please contact varrasd@sw1.k12.wy.us.

Young Author Reminder

Sweetwater County School District #1 Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment office has a Young Author Judge position open that we are seeking letters of interest for the 2019-2020 academic year. The position is listed below with a hyperlink to the website explaining more about that particular opening. For this position, letters will be accepted until 4:00pm on Monday, November 25th, 2019.

Young Author Judges

Please send all letters of interest to Tammy Macy at macyt@sw1.k12.wy.us

November 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4 ELA Kindergarten Training Board Room 8am-4pm	5 ELA 5th Grade Training Board Room 8am-4pm	6 CCC-SAC Board Room 8am-11:30am CVE-SAC Board Room 12:30pm-4pm	7	8
11 Board Meeting Board Room 6pm Veterans Day	12 District Department Chair Meeting PDC Room 4pm-6pm	13	14 WDE Computer Science Meeting Board Room 8am-4pm	15
18	19 AMP Training Board Room 1pm-4pm	20	21	22
25	26 Last Day for Students	27 Thanksgiving Break	28 Thanksgiving Break	29 Thanksgiving Break