WELCOME

BACK TO SCHOOL

September 2019

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

In this issue… SCSD #1 5-year Strategic Plan, PBIS, Back to School, PLC's at Eastside Elementary, SCRIPT Training, Curriculum Maps Updated, Summer Academies, Assessment Calendar, Assessment Results, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and September 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.

PBIS "On the Bus"

PBIS stands for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support. PBIS "on the bus" has been implemented District-wide for the 2019–2020 school year. PBIS is a proactive approach to bus behavior that emphasizes:

- Teaching students, the behaviors we expect to see
- Reminding them to use those behaviors
- Acknowledging positive behaviors
- Correcting negative behaviors through re-teaching

On August 16, 2019 Transportation personnel attended a training on PBIS implementation. In addition, all schools, in conjunction with drivers, have or will conduct student bus expectation training. The bus expectations that are being taught are:

PBIS Bus Expectations

Be Safe:
-Sit down and face forward
-Keep your hands, feet and objects to yourself
-Help others when the bus is **not** in motion
-Keep hands inside the bus
-Keep aisle/emergency exits clear

Be Responsible:
-Be on time
-Take all your belongings when you leave the bus
-Place trash in the trash can
-Stand in line away from the bus when loading
-When in the hallway, stay in your bus line

Be Respectful:
-Use appropriate voice, tone, volume and language
-No food or drinks
-Follow driver's directions promptly
-Use kind words and actions

PLC's at Eastside Elementary

Professional Learning Communities (PLC's) at Eastside are about teachers working to come up with ideas, goals and expectation, then meeting again to review results, make new expectations and work on results. Eastside's focus on their Math PLC was very involved in student results and what they could do as a team to make good results even better and how to accommodate students not meeting the goals. The other two goals they shared included going over each teachers' thoughts and personal views on what could help improve work and relationships in the classroom to create Smart Goals. For a better look into their planning here is a link to their PLC minutes **(LINK)**.

Back to School Week

PBIS Learning at Stagecoach Elementary

Stagecoach believes every moment is a learning moment, especially when it comes to behavior. If every student, staff member, and visitor understand our behavior expectations then we can maximize our learning time. At Stagecoach, PBIS is a way for us to encourage good behavior and build student self-awareness. With PBIS, we teach kids, just as we teach reading and math. PBIS is a way for us to be preventive and not reactive.

Chalk the Walk at Eastside Elementary

This year to welcome students back to school Mrs. Searle and Eastside PTSO reached out to student's families, community members and Eastside staff to create a colorful Chalk the Walk event.

During this time everyone who attended was encouraged to create colorful and encouraging pictures and sayings so that when students arrived on the first day they were greeted with positive images to start their school year!

Curriculum Updates

Computer Science Planning and Implementation Training

A team from Sweetwater County School District #1 participated in a computer science strategic planning tool training offered by the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) this past June. Strategic CSforALL Resource & Implementation Planning Tool (SCRIPT) is a training that provides districts with strategic planning tools to think through the various aspects needed to provide equitable, high-quality computer science education available to all students in their district. During the workshop, school district teams were led through a series of self-assessment and goal-setting activities to develop a computer science education vision and roadmap on how to implement the Computer Science curriculum. The goal of the workshop is for district teams to build or expand upon their computer science education implementation plans.

Three months after the initial training, WDE staff will visit to discuss plan implementation progress and provide support. Six months after the initial training, districts will come together as a group to report on their successes, challenges, and update/revise plans to better achieve goals. After one year, districts will come back together to plan for the second year of moving toward full implementation of computer science in all grades.

The SCRIPT team members are: Kelly McGovern, Stephanie Tolman, Wanda Maloney, Debbie Varras, David Galindo, Tina Searle, Annie Fletcher, Sean Grube, and Ryan Allen. The district will be expanding the team in the near future.

For additional SCRIPT information or to see Computer Science resources, please click here. To see the draft computer science standards, please click here.

Updated Curriculum Maps

Updated curriculum maps are available on the district website under the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment department or by clicking here. Updates have been made to many content areas based on state revision of standards or by teacher feedback via validation forms. Be sure to check out the second cycle Math Curriculum Map which includes a Cross Curricular Standard References section. If you have questions, please contact the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Office.

Important Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Links

An **instructional framework** is a shared and coherent belief system, mission, and understanding of a set of **instructional** principles, based on inquiry, and their visible implementation within and across classrooms to which all members of the school community are committed and accountable. **Curriculum expectations** are communicated to all staff and planned well in advance to guide curriculum development, resource adoptions and assessment practices. Please click on the links below to view documents that structure and communicate our shared beliefs.

Curriculum Expectations (LINK)   **Instructional Framework (LINK)**

Instruction Update

Summer Academies

Throughout the summer months of June, July and August, our district offered 45 summer academy programs with over 400 teachers participating.

Academies were offered to teachers and certified staff to further their knowledge and skills in their classrooms and buildings. The academies offered were based on Needs Assessment Surveys given throughout the year which helped identify what additional support teachers felt they needed to better educate their students.

This year's academies where facilitated by a number of district employees to include, District Department Chairs, Teacher Leaders, teachers specifically trained in Write Tools, Apple TV and Counseling, along with them we had Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment staff, UW Professors Dr. Hutinson & Reynolds, Write Tools co-author Carolyn Simmons, STEM/STEAM instructor, Carla Hester-Croff, Open Educational Resource Training (OER) instructor, Alisa Cook and Advanced CANVAS instructor, David Stokowski.

In order to measure the effectiveness of each professional development training, surveys are given after each session and feedback was shared with each facilitator. Overall, the survey results showed staff reported favorable results regarding the academies offered this summer. **(Survey Link)**

Summer Academy professional development trainings are funded by district funds and federal grant funds aimed at supporting certified staff and administrators. Building administrators also utilized funding which provided time for staff to focus on school improvement planning sessions and achievement monitoring processes.

Assessment Update

Assessment Calendar

The assessment calendar for the 2019-2020 school year is available for review by **Clicking Here**. Universal Screening and ACT dates have not been finalized by the leadership team at this time. WY-TOPP interims are optional and can be given at the discretion of the building principal/leadership team. The WY-TOPP modular assessments are optional as well, but can be given to formatively assess students as determined by the classroom teacher or building PLC teams. For questions, please contact Debbie Varras at the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment office.

Assessment Results

Sweetwater #1 district WY-TOPP results show some areas of improvement from the previous 2017-2018 school year. At the district level, an increase in English Language Arts (ELA) proficiency at the 3rd grade (7%), 9th grade (11%) and 10th grade levels (.3%). Also, an increase in math scores at the 3rd grade (2.5%), 4th grade (4.6%), 5th grade (2.2%) and 9th grade levels (9.2%). Many schools showed exceptional growth in student proficiency during the 2018-2019 school year. To view individual school, district or state WY-TOPP scores, please clicking HERE.

The district level 2018-2019 ACT results saw an increase in reading, science and on the composite scores when compared to the previous year. To view individual school, district or state WY-TOPP scores, please clicking HERE.

Title I Update

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is a federal law that requires school districts to ensure educational right and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness. Children or youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including children and youth:

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or similar reason;
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters or abandoned in hospitals
- Living in public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations or similar settings;
- Migratory children living in the above circumstances;
- The term unaccompanied youth include a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian; may be eligible for additional services.

If you are aware of any student living any of these situations, please fill out the student referral form **(LINK)** and email it to Rita Isaacson, Liaison for Youth in Transition (isaacsonr@sw1.k12.wy.us).

August 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 No School Labor Day	3	4 CCC-SAC 8am-4pm Board Room	5	6
9 Board Meeting 6pm	10 ELA Training 5th Grade 8am-4pm Board Room	11 ELA Training Kindergarten 8am-4pm Board Room	12 CVE-SAC 8am-11:30am Board Room	13
16 School Improvement Teams 4pm-6pm Board Room	17	18	19	20
23	24 AMP Training 12:30pm-4pm Board Room	25 Science 4th & 5th PD 8am-4pm Board Room	26 Science 6th-12th PD 8am-4pm Board Room	27
30				