# Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Newsletter

**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.

**CIA Newsletter** **Sweetwater County School District #1**

**February 2020**

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Mission: To nurture, we serve

SCSD #1 Mission: To provide a quality education for all students.

SCSD #1 Vision: As an innovative district, united with our community, we empower and inspire all students to academic excellence in pursuit of their interests and passions.

## goIT Computer Science Training

Sweetwater County School District #1 hosts Tata Consulting Services and goIT Computer Science Training to engage students in authentic learning experiences and bring about an awareness of career opportunities.

Colleges graduated approximately 50,000 students into the computer science U.S. workforce last year to fill over 500,000 job openings. STEM skill gaps exist worldwide and Sweetwater#1 along with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) are working together to introduce students to the field of computer science, which is projected to be one of the industries with the greatest demand for skilled workers in the coming years. Computer science involves being intentional to problem solve and create solutions to issues using technology.

The initiative, goIT, included a train-the-trainer session for all teachers on January 27th and 28th. The teachers learned 6 modules, ranging from design thinking and identifying a problem to wire framing and prototyping. The teachers will implement the modules with all 7th and 8th grade students in the district on February 4th, 5th and 6th, 2020

Students will go through a step-by-step process to design an app to solve a community problem.  Deliverables include a storyboard, a mobile app prototype, a slide presentation and an entrepreneurial pitch.   After learning the components of a "perfect pitch", students then prepare an entrepreneurial style presentation, which they present in front of their peers and a panel of judges in "Shark Tank" fashion. The implementation will result in four Sweetwater#1 teams going to Casper this spring to compete against students in Uinta, Weston, Niobrara, Johnson and Natrona school districts.

By implementing the TCS, Sweetwater#1 is able to spark curiosity, demystify Computer Science standards, increase student awareness of the future of STEM and computer science fields while honing the employability skills necessary to succeed in a 21st century workforce.

# Counseling Resource Adoption

The Counseling Subject Area Committee (SAC) met on January 20 and 21, 2020 to review resources for adoption. This process involves a review of resources that are evidence-based, comprehensive, efficient and feasible. Several supplemental resources were also considered during the review. The Counseling SAC team has narrowed the selection of resources and will hear resource presentations on February 20, 2020, for the following programs:

K-6 Paths, Second Step, Quaver SEL

6-12 Signs of Suicide, Growing Leaders

K-12 Lions Quest, Overcoming Obstacles

Samples of these programs will be made available to all counselors in the district along with login information. Over the next month, feedback will be collected from all counselors through a survey link. This information is then shared with the Counseling SAC team in order to make a final decision regarding the selection of a new resource.

# Community Curriculum Council Update

The Community Curriculum Council (CCC) met in January to reviewed important points from the professional development provided by Dr. Anthony Muhammad. In addition, they reviewed the District  Assessment System (DAS). The purpose of the K-12 DAS is to ensure equity of opportunity for Wyoming students by demonstrating the alignment of curriculum and assessments to the Wyoming Content and Performance Standards in all content areas. The DAS includes all assessments students take that are aligned to the State Standards. In addition, the CCC discussed next steps for implementing Phase I of standards referenced grading. This discussion will continue in May at the next scheduled meeting.

## Teacher Leaders Design Computer Science Lessons

Teacher Leaders are designing computer science lessons and implementing the lessons with their students. Students are enjoying solving complex problems, working with peers and practicing engineering standards. Contact Teacher Leaders if you are interested in implementing the computer science lessons. The Teacher Leaders will be planning a summer academy for teachers who would like to try out implementation of Computer Science Standards. For more information on Sweetwater #1 Computer Science implementation, click here.

## Science Teachers Engage in Professional Development

Fourth and Fifth grade teachers continued their Science professional development in January. At the training, teachers learned how to use summary sheets to document learning. The summary sheets documented the questions, what we did, and what we learned. Teachers also worked with linking activities back to the phenomena, and included crosscutting concepts (CCCs), and science and engineering practices (SEPs) while implementing the storyline. Teachers also practiced using all modes of learning.. Teachers had facilitated collaboration time to work with each other and plan science units.

$6^{th}$ through $12^{th}$ grade teachers took the Science WY-TOPP Training test. During the debrief, teachers noticed that the questions are rigorous, multi-step questions with a video or reading passage accompanying the questions. Questions require data analysis, graphing, perseverance and knowledge of science content. Teachers will be working with students by practicing the format and teaching students how to tackle complex science questions. To access the practice tests, please click here. Teachers also worked with phenomenon and had facilitated collaboration time to work with

**SAVE THE DATE! YOUNG AUTHOR'S AWARDS CEREMONY WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M. ROCK SPRINGS JUNIOR HIGH AUDITORIUM**

each other and to plan 3D lessons. Teachers will bring student work back in February.

# Young Author Competition

The deadline for all Young Author submissions was January 24, 2020. The submissions are in the process of being double scored by the judges. Students will be given a certificate of participation and notified if they placed First, Second, or Third in Fiction, Non-Fiction or Poetry at their grade level. Students that have placed First, Second, or Third will be invited to the District Young Author Celebration on February 27, 2020 at 6 p.m. at Rock Springs Junior High. Students will be notified the week of February 11th if they have placed for the District Celebration.

Students placing first place in the District competition will go on to compete at the county level. Those students will be invited to the County Celebration on March 6, 2020.

Once the District Celebration is complete, stories can be read on the District Young Author webpage.

# WY-TOPP Support

Support may include data analysis, setting up a test session, security or finding data. Please contact Debbie Varras varrasd@sw1.k12.wy.us if you have questions.

# Cambium Learning & AIR Assessments

Cambium Learning has acquired AIR Assessments and our vendor for WY-TOPP and WY-ALT is now Cambium Assessments. Although the name has changed, all contact numbers and information will remain the same; however, please be aware that some documentation will show the Cambium brand. This transition does not change the assessment or the processes for the assessments. This is primarily a name change. For more information, please click here.

# Survey Input Provides Valuable Information

As part of our budgeting for professional development and planning for Accreditation, the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Department gives annual surveys in February and March to certified staff, parents and administrators. The surveys include: the Certified Needs Assessment for both administrators and staff, Parent Needs Assessment and an Efficacy survey for both administrators and staff. The questions on the Certified Needs Assessment align to the Consolidated Grant and provide valuable information for planning and professional development. This also meets the requirement to survey certified staff in alignment with the use of federal funds.

Once the surveys have been given, the results are shared with directors,  building administrators, District Department Chairs, and the Community Curriculum Council to assist in professional development and school improvement planning.  For more information about the surveys, contact a building administrator or CIA district staff.

# Access Testing

We are currently ACCESS testing all our 319 active  English Language students in the district .  The testing window is January 21, 2020 to February 25, 2020.  Data from the ACCESS test is used by the state for building accountability on the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act (WAEA) report and determining whether students are meeting proficiency in English Language development.  Basic information for the ACCESS test is below:

- Is administered to Kindergarten through Grade 12 students who have been identified as English language learners (ELLs)
- Is given annually to monitor students' progress in learning academic English
- Meets U.S. federal requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) for monitoring and reporting ELLs' progress toward English language proficiency
- Is anchored in the WIDA English Language Development Standards
- Assesses the four language domains of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing

| CIA Calendar | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **February 2020** | Color Coding Key:<br>Red=Staff Information<br>Green=Testing Information<br>Purple=Breaks/Holidays<br>Blue=CIA<br>Orange=District | | | | | |
| **Mon** | **Tue** | **Wed** | **Thu** | **Fri** | **Sat** | **Sun** |
| | | | | | **1** | **2** |
| **3** | **4** goIT @ RSJH Mandt 4-7 | **5** goIT @ RSJH  Mandt 4-7 | **6** goIT @ RSJH Mandt 4-7 | **7** | **8** | **9** |
| **10** PLC Cohort II- Year 1 Training | **11** PLC Cohort II- Year 1 Training | **12** 4-5 grade Science PD | **13** 6-12 Science PD | **14** | **15** | **16** |
| **17** President's Day | **18** 5th Grade ELA | **19** Leadership/ Principal PLC meetings | **20** CVE SAC  Counselor SAC- Adoption | **21** | **22** | **23** |
| **24** Kindergarten ELA Counselor SAC Resource Adoption | **25** PLC Cohort 1- Year 2 | **26** PLC Cohort 1- Year 2 | **27** | **28** | **29** | |

| *Draft* | 2019-2020 SCSD#1 Assessment Calendar | | | | | | | | *Draft* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Assessment** | August | September | October | November | December | January | February | March | April | May | June |
| **Universal Screening   (Required by District)**<br>   K - 3 | Begin:<br>August 26 | | | | | Begin:<br>Jan. 6 | | | Begin:<br>April 22 | End:<br>May 1 | |
| **District Common Assessments (Required by District)** | Begin:<br>August 19 | | | | | | | | | End:<br>May 24 | |
| **ACCESS 2.0 (Rquired by WDE)**<br>   The ACCESS is a English Language proficiency test<br>   administered annually.  Grades:  K-12 | | | | | | Begin:<br>Jan.  24 | End:<br>Feb. 25 | | | | |
| **WIDA (Rquired by WDE)**<br>   The ACCESS is a English Language proficiency test<br>   administered annually to students who do not have an<br>   ACCESS score.  Grades:  K-12 | Begin:<br>August 19 | | | | | | | | | End:<br>May 24 | |
| **ACT  (Required by WDE)**<br>   The ACT is a standards-based exam that assesses students in<br>   Grade 11 for academic readiness for college. The College and<br>   Career Readiness System measures a student's skills in English<br>   Language Arts, Math, Reading, Writing, and Science. | | | | | | | | | Begin: April 7<br>End: April 9 | | |
| **WY-TOPP Modular  (Optional)**<br>   On demand formative assessments aligned to Wyoming State<br>   Standards (ELA, Math and Writing) for grades 1-11 | | Begin:<br>Sept. 10 | | | | | | | | | End:<br>June 12 |
| **WY-TOPP Interim Fall (Optional)**<br>   ELA: Grades 1-10<br>   Math: Grades 1-10<br>   Writing: Grades 3 ,5, 6 & 9 | | Begin:<br>Sept. 10 | End:<br>October 4 | | | | | | | | |
| **WY-TOPP Interim Winter (Optional)**<br>   ELA: Grades 3-10<br>   Math: Grades 3-10<br>   Writing: Grades 3 ,5, 6 & 9 | | | | | | Begin:<br>Jan. 14 | End:<br>Feb. 7 | | | | |
| **WY-TOPP Interim Spring (Required by WDE)**<br>   Reading: K-2<br>   Math: K-2 | | | | | | | | | Begin:<br>April 14 | End:<br>May 8 | |
| **WY-TOPP Summative (Required by WDE)**<br>   ELA:  Grades 3 - 10<br>   Math:  Grades 3 - 10<br>   Science:  Grades 4, 8 and 10<br>   Writing:  Grades 3, 5, 7 and 9 | | | | | | | | | Begin:<br>April 14 | End:<br>May 8 | |
| **WY-ALT (Required by WDE)**<br>   Wyoming Alternate Assessment for students with<br>   significant cognitive disabilities.<br>   ELA:  Grades 3 - 10<br>   Math:  Grades 3 - 10<br>   Science:  Grades 4, 8 10 | | | | | | | | Begin:<br>March 3 | End:      April 22 | | |
| **WorkKeys  (Optional)**<br>   Grades:  11-12 | | | | | | | | | TBD | TBD | |