

CIA Newsletter

Fall 2023

Happy Fall, Sweetwater #1!

Where has this fall gone? Next week is Thanksgiving and the holidays are fast approaching! I hope that this letter finds you doing well, that you are finding time to relax, and are having a great school year!

The CIA department has been busy with many projects this fall... including wrapping up some spending of closing out grants, ordering supplies for schools, and supporting professional development projects. Our vision of providing support for a strong instructional model with purposeful planning, quality instruction, resources, and assessment continues to drive what we do each day.

Feel free to reach out with any questions, needs, or concerns.

Happy Thanksgiving! Have a wonderful break next week!

Jodie Garner

Chief Academic Officer

Congratulations, Desert View Elementary School!

Last Spring, schools were invited to participate in the inaugural Wyoming Governor's Reading Challenge, beginning in the summer of 2023. The Challenge began on June 5th and ended on August 18th, with the school(s) in the state that had the most books read/per student during the summer months would be visited and congratulated by Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon. We are thrilled to announce that Desert View Elementary School won! They are looking forward to the visit from Governor Gordon on November 29th! Awesome job! Congratulations to the students and staff from Desert View!



At Risk Oversight Office - Updates

SAMHSA grants:

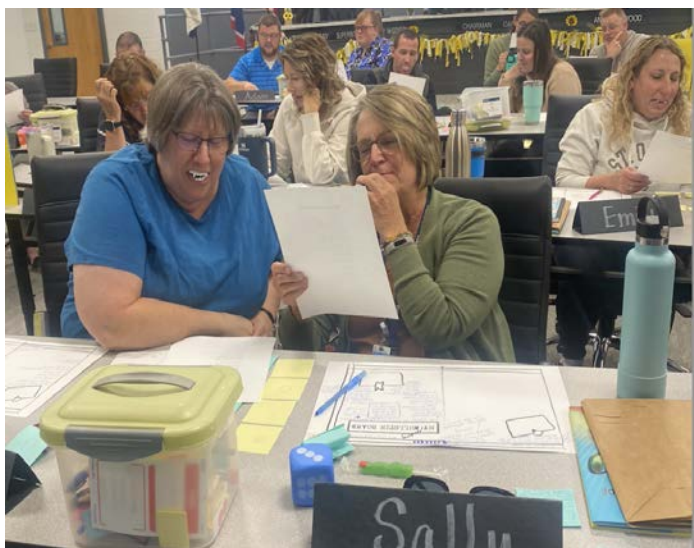
We are entering into our third year of Project AWARE and the first full year of our TISS grant. We have been able to provide therapeutic counseling services to our students. With over 170 counseling referrals we have been able to provide direct mental health services to all who had parental consent. Obtaining parent consent remains our primary barrier to providing services; the stigma around mental health and wellness in our community is very prevalent. In addition to direct student services the grants have supported

- Multiple staff trainings in Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Sources of Strength Implementation at Rock Springs Junior High, Rock Springs High School, and Black Butte High School
- Tier I and tier II resources for social-emotional support (i.e.: resource books, social stories, fidgets, flexible seating).

We look forward to supporting a parent/community education series in the near future.

Professional Development:

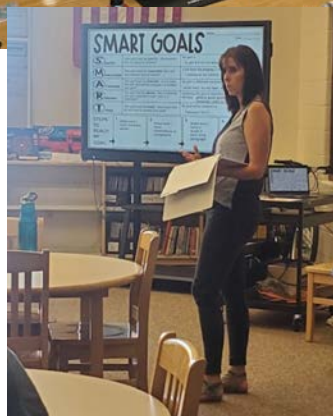
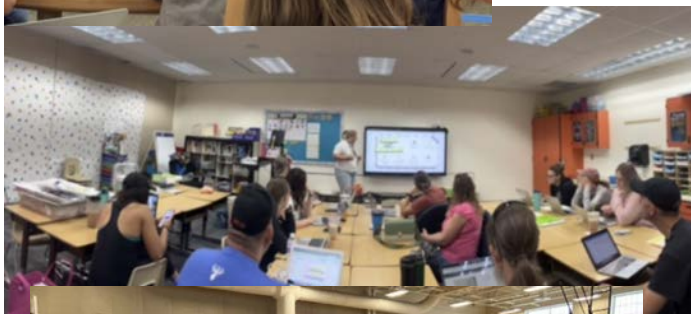
The Curriculum Instruction and Assessment Office has hosted K- 6th grade teacher grade-level collaboration workshops. These were focused around literacy strategies and the Science of Reading, math fluency, looking at assessment data, and updating curriculum maps. The days also included some fun freebies, lots of laughter, and excellent conversations around teaching and learning!



Choice-Based Professional Development Day

For the first District PD Day of the school year, we planned a Choice-Based Professional Development Day for Sweetwater #1 and have received extremely positive feedback about this day. We plan to offer a similar opportunity in the second semester! Thank you to the staff members who taught many of our PD options!

Here are a few pictures from many of the opportunities!





FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS

FOR TEACHERS

FOR DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

COMMUNICATIONS

Professional Development

[Wyoming Department of Education](#) > [For Teachers](#) > Professional Development



WYO Education
Professional Development Portal



Visit the [Wyo Education Professional Development Portal](#) for upcoming opportunities.

This portal is a collaboration between the WDE, Wyoming Professional Teaching Standards Bureau, and the University of Wyoming College of Education

The WDE provides conferences throughout the year. Information is available on the [conferences page](#).

WDE has created a new Professional Development Portal that you must check out! There are countless great opportunities listed and are always being updated!

WY-TOPP Results

WY-TOPP results were released by State Superintendent Degenfelder early in September 2023. In the press release, the state noticed slight increases in overall proficiencies throughout the state in English Language Arts (ELA), math and science. Sweetwater #1 results were mixed. Sweetwater #1 seventh grade math performed higher than the state average in ELA and in Math. When comparing current WY-TOPP results to previous year's results, the district saw growth in 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th grade ELA, in 6th, 7th, 9th and 10th grade Math as well as 8th grade Science. To review additional WY-TOPP data by state, district or school, please visit the WDE reporting site by [clicking here](#). Also, disaggregated data is available by school, district and state level, by [clicking on this link](#).

Wyoming & Sweetwater County School District #1 WY-TOPP ELA Results % Proficient & Advanced						
Grade	Wyoming 2020-2021	Sweetwater#1 2020-2021	Wyoming 2021-2022	Sweetwater#1 2021-2022	Wyoming 2022-2023	Sweetwater#1 2022-2023
Grade 3	50.28%	44.79%	47.89%	36.76%	48.25%	35.20%
Grade 4	48.67%	44.50%	47.42%	36.36%	45.48%	32.20%
Grade 5	54.56%	51.76%	57.04%	47.63%	54.87%	45.50%
Grade 6	58.86%	58.40%	58.12%	57.87%	59.84%	48.10%
Grade 7	53.32%	48.35%	54.73%	56.78%	54.40%	59.00%
Grade 8	60.65%	54.61%	58.35%	52.31%	59.75%	55.10%
Grade 9	52.23%	42.08%	49.50%	41.41%	52.60%	46.20%
Grade 10	51.91%	43.49%	51.57%	39.10%	53.66%	43.00%

Wyoming & Sweetwater County School District #1 WY-TOPP Science Results % Proficient & Advanced						
Grade	Wyoming 2020-2021	Sweetwater#1 2020-2021	Wyoming 2021-2022	Sweetwater#1 2021-2022	Wyoming 2022-2023	Sweetwater#1 2022-2023
Grade 4	48.16%	42.12%	49.61%	39.45%	50.23%	37.90%
Grade 8	46.21%	42.43%	45.93%	38.35%	48.10%	45.30%
Grade 10	47.90%	41.18%	46.47%	42.64%	46.56%	38.50%

Wyoming & Sweetwater County School District #1 WY-TOPP Math Results % Proficient & Advanced						
Grade	Wyoming 2020-2021	Sweetwater#1 2020-2021	Wyoming 2021-2022	Sweetwater#1 2021-2022	Wyoming 2022-2023	Sweetwater#1 2022-2023
Grade 3	50.49%	54.49%	51.59%	42.56%	53.52%	41.10%
Grade 4	49.78%	47.04%	52.30%	39.67%	51.10%	30.60%
Grade 5	51.21%	41.71%	52.50%	35.68%	53.66%	34.40%
Grade 6	48.06%	45.61%	51.53%	40.56%	51.48%	40.90%
Grade 7	47.04%	43.65%	47.34%	48.38%	49.08%	56.40%
Grade 8	50.88%	43.18%	48.59%	41.50%	49.59%	41.50%
Grade 9	41.75%	36.13%	41.58%	26.57%	40.98%	33.20%
Grade 10	44.70%	38.82%	41.58%	26.82%	43.73%	33.80%

From the Academic and Behavior Office

According to Scott Ervin, the author of *The Classroom Behavior Manual*, students are often “failed by ineffective, incomplete or nonexistent behavior management techniques. These techniques accidentally encourage negative behaviors, causing vulnerable students to repeat, explore and amplify their behaviors”, this often leads to suspensions or other disciplinary measures.

A behavior management technique which is frequently misused is the noticing of a positive behavior. The methodology behind the technique is that behaviors are repeated, explored and/or heightened when they are noticed, this includes both negative or positive behaviors. However, the strategy employed by the author of this book does not involve praise. Praise may work with a mentally healthy student and/or young students but will not often work with an at-risk, older, or difficult student. Difficult students often do not want you to “like” what they do, especially in front of their peers. The author advises using a behavior management strategy called Strategic Noticing.

To utilize Strategic Noticing in response to a student’s positive behavior, simply say:

I noticed (enter positive behavior here).

Examples include but are not limited to:

I noticed that you are listening.

I noticed that you treat people well.

I noticed that you play fair.

I noticed that you sat down and got right to work.

I noticed that you followed through when passing the ball.

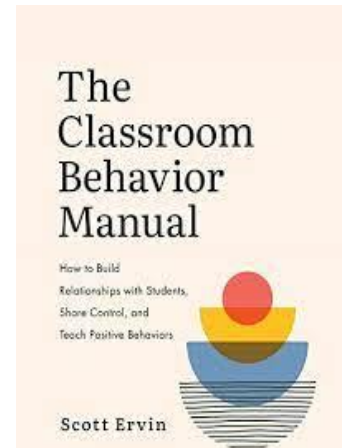
I noticed that you are using the word wall to spell your words correctly.

Do not like what students do - notice what they do.

Therefore, as opposed to saying, “I like that Ralph is sitting quietly.” You say, “I noticed that you are sitting quietly.”

To ensure this strategy is highly effective you need to attend to how often you use Strategically Noticing. The numbers below denote the minimum amount of Strategic Noticing necessary for success, in any setting.

- 30 minutes = 20 Strategic Noticings
- 10 minutes = 7 Strategic Noticings
- 5 minutes = 4 Strategic Noticings
- 50 minutes 34 Strategic Noticings



For optimal usage:

- Bombard students with Strategic Noticing within the first five minutes of sitting on the bus, of class, or of the day.
- Inundate your students with Strategic Noticing the first five minutes after recess or lunch.

Why these times in particular? First it is easier to remember to use the technique immediately after a break from students. Second it reminds students what behaviors get attention in your environment be it the classroom, bus, lunch line etc. Don't stop with these noticings though, keep noticing!

A couple of notes on Strategic Noticing:

1. Type of Noticings include public and private. Consider the needs of your particular students when deciding which to use.
2. If a student reacts to a Notice with "SO?!" simply respond with "I just happened to notice" while walking away. Don't let this deter you from noticing the student's positive behavior in the future.

Noticing positive behaviors, focusing on negative behaviors can create a downward spiral that turns formerly positive people into negative people. We become what we continually focus on.

EL Updates

We continue to see an increase in the number of EL students registering this year. The table below presents a picture of the growth the district is seeing in our EL population.

EL Students that are	11-14-2023	9-12-2023	2022 - 2023
Active and Identified	335	325	321 - May 2023
New to the District	77	41	46 - May 2023
Newcomers	46	18	24 - November 2022
Percent Increase Over Same Time Period in 2023	4.4%	1.2%	

Important Dates

1. November 30, 2023 All ACCESS testing certification need to be completed and turned into Sylvia
2. Schedules for ACCESS Testing Window are due
 - December 22, 2023 for Elementary Schools
 - January 12, 2024 for junior high and high school
3. ACCESS Testing Window – January 23 through February 21, 2024

Missing Domain on ACCESS Assessments for ELs/IEP Students (WDE 465)

This year the district will be allowing IEP teams to use an option from the state for testing students with IEP's. This option will allow the district to submit to WDE for exemptions for a single or multiple ACCESS domain (Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing). The exception must be part of the IEP and the IELP and identify which domain the student is unable to participate in. To request an ACCESS Domain not be tested, the EL/IEP student must not be able to use an allowable accommodation identified in the "WIDA 2023-24 Accountability and Accessibility Handbook".

Please complete this [form](#) by December 16, 2023 for any students you are requesting an exemption from specific domain ACCESS testing for.
