



Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Newsletter January 2020

In this issue... Dr. Anthony Muhammad Professional Development, What's happening around the District, Counseling Resource Adoption, New Course Proposal, Teacher Resources, Accreditation Update, Computer Science Update, Teacher Efficacy, EL Meeting at RSHS, Perkins: Association for Career and Technical Conference, WY-TOPP: Winter Interim Assessment, Modular Assessments to Inform Instruction and WY-TOPP Blueprints, Assessment Calendar, Young Author Competition and January 2020 Events Calendar



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

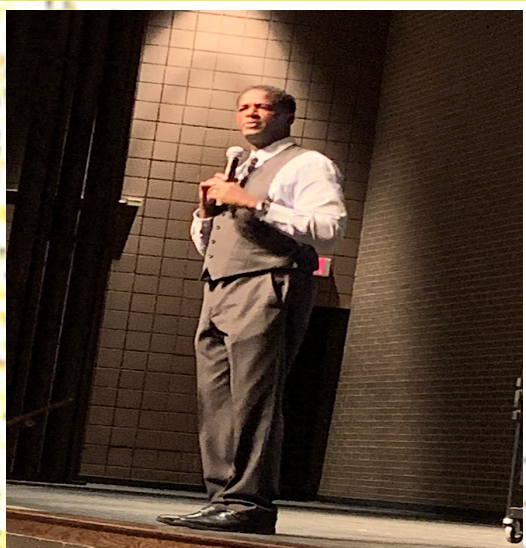
- Increase student and family awareness of educational and career opportunities in Sweetwater County and beyond.
- Instill and reinforce employability skills and a drive for learning.
- Recognize and celebrate student, family, community and employee contributions.



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.

Nurturing a Positive Learning Climate and Culture



On December 20th, 2019, the district engaged in a professional development training with Dr. Anthony Muhammad aligned to our strategic plan focused on nurturing a positive learning climate and culture. His presentation focused on the four essential skills of a transformational leader. He began with having individuals identify qualities a leader must possess to transform behavior and build consensus recognizing that all staff have an opportunity to be leaders. In addition, Dr. Muhammad shared the four critical behaviors for transformational change:

- Communication (Why-Cognitive)
- Building Trust (Who?-Emotional)
- Support/Capacity Building (How?-Functional)
- Accountability (Do-Return)

(2019) Cruz and Muhammad, Time for Change!: 4 Essential Skills for Transformational School and District Leaders

Throughout the presentation, staff participated in scenarios in order to apply strategies aligned to understanding transformational change.

Farson-Eden School: Senior Luncheon, Wyoming Day and Engaging Your Youngest Learners

Senior Citizen Luncheon



Farson-Eden students welcomed area senior citizens for a holiday luncheon in the school cafeteria made with local Farson-Eden beef. The PTQ sponsored the lunch as a student service project. Various grade levels sang carols and provided entertainment while student council members welcomed and served guests. Christmas cards written by the elementary students were handed out to all participants.

Wyoming Day

The Farson-Eden 4th graders celebrated Wyoming Day by reviewing what we know about Wyoming's history, we discussed and watched video clips of why Wyoming is known as the equality state, and we used our Wyoming map to locate places we discussed.



Engaging Your Youngest Learners



How do you engage your youngest learners when school resumes for one day on a Thursday following Christmas break and then school is out for three more days? Farson Elementary students enjoyed engaging lessons from teachers and community organizations as they moved among stations, learning in a whole new way. Lessons included a trip into the BOCES planetarium, learning about plants from reps of our local Weed and Pest, participating in Kagan team building games, learning about fighting forest fires from Game and Fish, using math and science skills to make slime, learning computer coding, and measuring ingredients to cook pancakes. It was a great, fun, welcome back to a New Year of learning!

Sage Elementary: Buffalo Bill

Sage Elementary was proud to present "Buffalo Bill's" Holiday Roundup. This live music presentation offered Holiday Songs, poems, and entertaining skits in the festive spirit of the cowboys and pioneers of the Old Wild West. During December, "Buffalo Bill" and Dr. Jo (Poinsettia of the Plains) perform on the fiddle, banjo, mandolin, guitar, vocals and present this program statewide for concerts, schools and special events!



Overland Elementary and Young at Heart Senior Center



Overland Elementary 3rd graders have been going to the Young At Heart Senior Center for the last three years. Recently we had an opportunity to connect with them and our 3rd graders to study Rock Springs history. Young At Heart created a "Remember When" series that they did each month. They have a presentations of some sort about a topic relevant to Rock Springs or the surrounding area. Our students started to attend lunch with the Seniors and listened to the presentation. Quickly they became part of the lunch presentation and always prepared a part of what was presented. This year we had the great honor of hosting them at Overland and sharing a thank you to them for their continued hospitality and partnership.

Our students are learning a great deal about their community. However, we think the bigger payoff has been the connection to a different generation. Seniors and students have really connected and they look forward to going each month and spending time with their friends.
-Submitted by Ryan Allen, Overland Principal

RSJH Field Trips



Mrs. Candy Bedard took her Personal Finance Management/Career Exploration students on a field trip on Tuesday, December 10. At the end of each semester, Mrs. Bedard plans this field trip to get the students out into the business community where they can expand on their learning, and ask questions of these experts in their field. She takes the students to various stops for each of the units taught in the class including; budgeting, banking, purchasing a car, car insurance, credit, and careers. This semester students visited Rocky Mountain Bank, First Choice Ford, State Farm Insurance, Remedies, the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, and Western Wyoming

Community College. This is one of the culminating activities of the course. Mrs. Bedard is very thankful for the wonderful business people in the community who are willing to share their knowledge and expertise with her students. Students get a more realistic look at the concepts they've learned over the course of the semester through the field trip. The business people are amazing with her students, and it is always a great day for them!

On Wednesday, December 11, Mrs. Bedard took her Entrepreneurship class on a different field trip. Mrs. Bedard contacts various business owners within the community, as well as individuals who work for companies that provide assistance to local entrepreneurs, as she schedules the stops for this particular field trip. This semester the stops included; Fotos by Jenni, Wells Fargo Bank, Remedies/Bi-Rite Drug/Sweet Sage, the Urban Renewal Agency, the local Chamber of Commerce, and Homewood Suites. This field trip is always invaluable as a culminating activity for this class. This is a class where students really need the opportunity to go out into the community and connect with and observe entrepreneurs "in action". They always ask great questions of the speakers, and they get a much more realistic idea of what owning and running a small business would entail. Mrs. Bedard has worked hard to make contacts in the Rock Springs area for the field trip for her Entrepreneurship class, as well. The business owners are incredible with her students, and it truly is an experience they learn from and will remember.

Counseling Resource Adoption

The Counseling Subject Area Committee (SAC) met on December 4, 2019 to review evidence-based options and determine needs to support students based on the input from all district counselors.

SAC members will meet again on January 20, 2020 to cross reference the resources with a rubric that is aligned to standards, support materials and ease of use. From this process, resources are narrowed to several that are further examined and presentations scheduled by resource vendors. Using the narrowed list of resources, online access and samples will also be provided to counselors to pilot within their classrooms/schools. Survey links will be provided to all district counselors to provide additional feedback.

The vendor presentations occur on February 18, 2020 and allow the counselors to gain a deeper understanding of the resource and the available options. A list of benefits and features are reviewed following the presentations.

On February 24, 2020 the counselor SAC meets again to review feedback, rubric alignment and make a final determination on a resource. All members need to come to a consensus prior to selecting a resource. Communication will follow on the selected counseling resource in a district news email and within the Curriculum newsletter.

In March, an informational Board presentation will be made and final approval follows in April. Once Board approval is gained, materials are ordered and professional development planning is organized to support the implementation.

The link provides a detailed timeline of the process and procedures that occur for the adoption:

<https://resource.echalk.com/sr/bAO88wM0>

New Courses being proposed for the 2020-2021 school year

Teachers, District Department Chairs and administrators have worked during the fall semester to develop new courses that will be presented to the Board for review on January 13, 2019. The courses offer students an opportunity to expand their knowledge in Computer Science, Performing Arts, Fine Arts, Social Studies, Foreign Language, Math, PE/Health, Career and Technical Education and a course that expands on the Gifted and Talented program.

The expansion of the Gifted and Talented course offering will allow students to continue the program into the junior high with a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Language Arts and Math (STEAM). This also meets recommendations from the task force that gave feedback to expand the program.

The majority of the new courses focus on providing additional opportunities in the area of Career and Technical Education. These courses build on the vocational programs and specific courses offered at Farson-Eden will provide an opportunity for students to participate in the Future Farmers of America program.

Several other new courses were developed to provide additional interventions and enrichment pathways along with guided study programs and independent study options which allow students to apply their knowledge in a work setting.

All new courses and revisions go through a rigorous review that ensures courses have a rationale, consensus from academic leaders and alignment to standards. Each course is then evaluated to determine projected professional development, material costs and certification of personnel. A final review is determined by the Board of Trustees for approval.

Teacher and Student Resources

Looking for Primary Resources? Click on the link below for a one-stop shop to find resources on business, careers, health, history, hobbies, science, literature, Spanish to name a few. [Cengage-Gale Resources](#) This link has been added to Canvas for your convenience.

Science teachers—check out the [ProQuest for Science & Technology](#).

Accreditation Update

One of the accreditation standards is Culture and Climate. In this standard, the district works to ensure that safe, and supportive conditions are in place that enable collaboration, innovation, professional growth and learning for all students and adults in all schools. One of the effective practices is that the district must assess the culture and climate using surveys and results to monitor improvement of district and school processes. Sweetwater #1 gives a climate survey every spring and fall to students in 6th through 12th grade. The survey is provided to the district by the Wyoming Department of Education. The survey asks questions about high expectations, staff respect/support and student respect/support. Principals share survey results with their school staff and use the data to focus culture and climate improvement efforts.

Sweetwater #1 fall 2019 student climate survey results are located by [clicking here](#).

Update on Computer Science Implementation

Sweetwater #1 Teacher Leaders are digging into the [Wyoming Computer Science Standards](#) and they are designing lessons to pilot with their students. At this time, the Computer Science Standards are awaiting the governor's signature. By law, the computer science standards will be implemented by the 2022-2023 school year.

Sample computer science lessons will be available for staff in January by [clicking here](#).



Teacher Efficacy: When a Teacher Believes in Their Own Ability to Guide their Students to Success

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. Ways to build and raise self-efficacy include:

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

A staff survey will be administered soon to get baseline data on the collective efficacy of Sweetwater #1 staff, to support building capacity for staff. This also aligns to the accreditation process.

EL Meeting at RSHS

With the growing numbers of EL students, RSHS administration felt the need to empower and inform our staff on how to best service our students. EL teachers, Christine Pettibone and Kristin Gasaway, led a PD session during teacher prep meetings on December 6. They reviewed the roles of teachers and paraeducators, gave a real-life scenario of our level 1 and 2 students for the teachers to experience, and provided some strategies and resources for the teachers. Included in those strategies is a google drive for teachers to contribute to as well. To round out the session, time was given for questions and answers. This was a critical step and valued by our teachers and staff.



Perkins: Association of Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Conference

School District #1 teachers, Angie Banks, Stephen Wright, and Candy Bedard attended the Association of Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Career Vision 2019 conference in Anaheim, California on December 4th -7th, 2019. Through ACTE's vision of "empowering educators to deliver high quality CTE programs that ensure all students are positioned for career success," the Conference provided informative sessions in all of the different CTE areas (Administration, Agricultural Education, Business Education, Engineering and Technology Education, Family and Consumer Sciences Education, Guidance and Career Development, Health Science Education, Marketing Education, New and Related Services, Postsecondary, Adult and Career Education, and Trade and Industrial Education).

Garret Reisman provided a very inspirational keynote address at the opening general session. He is a professor of Astronautical Engineering at the University of Southern California, Advisor of SpaceX, and former NASA Astronaut. He stressed the importance of motivating and engaging students in technology learning, and provided a glimpse into the future of space travel and exploration. He stressed the need for technology education to meet the current and future high-demand career fields in space and on Earth, as well as the importance of inspiring students to achieve their highest goals and potential in life.

The conference offered a wide variety of sessions for attendees. Some of the topics included; curriculum, career awareness and exploration, work and employability skills, student motivation, current grant legislation, technology tools, and software applications, just to name a few. The conference highlighted a plethora of programs for CTE students, which help them become highly successful in various trades and occupations, and which don't always require a traditional college educational pathway.

The conference provided CTE teachers opportunities to collaborate with teachers from across the nation. Sharing of information is one of the most valuable aspects of the conference. Attending these conferences is critical for our district CTE teachers, as it allows them an opportunity to connect with and share common challenges being faced by all CTE teachers in our country. This also helps our local teachers stay abreast of current and emerging trends in their teaching field(s). It's an opportunity to meet and make contacts with instructors who they can continue to collaborate with regarding educational ideas and practices.

The Career Tech Expo showcased more than 200 companies. The Expo provided opportunities for teachers to preview company products and services, attend exhibitor workshops and live demonstrations on various products, software, and supplemental teaching materials. The Expo is an amazing opportunity for the teachers to speak with exhibitors, preview teaching materials, and request sample materials. This is another one of the major benefits of attending the ACTE Conference.



District Perkins funds were used to cover the costs of sending the three teachers to this conference. It is definitely a good use of the funds, as teachers who attend are able to share what they learn with fellow teachers, Administrators, and other district employees upon their return. The conference definitely provides comprehensive professional development, and allows teachers to expand their CTE network. We are hoping to send even more CTE teachers to the conference next year.

Winter WY-TOPP Interim Assessment

The WY-TOPP Winter interim assessments are optional online adaptive assessments. The winter interim assessment is available for grades 3rd-10th in ELA and Math and writing in grades 3rd, 5th, 7th and 9th. Results are available immediately after students complete the assessment. The winter window opens up on January 14th and ends on February 7th.

Use WY-TOPP Modular Assessments to Inform Instruction

As of the new year, there have been over 3200 ELA and over 600 writing modular assessments given in grades 1-10. More than 3500 modular assessments have been given in Math in grades 1-8. Modular assessments are short formative assessments that assess specific topics or skills. The purpose of modular assessments is to check for student understanding and inform instruction in the classroom based off of **immediate** student results. Use the *Operational Test Administration* link to administer the Modular Assessments where formative data is available. Quick tip: When logging into the Wyoming Assessment Portal, practice test taking strategies with the whole class by using the *Modular Previewing System* link.

WY-TOPP Blueprints

Assessment blueprints are a table that lays out curricular aims/expectations and the thinking skills expected of students. It also reflects the content of an assessment. The WY-TOPP blueprints are documents that show the skills and the percent of items per standard. For example, on the 4th grade summative Science assessment, 30% consists of Earth & Space Science, 40% is Physical Science and 30% are Life Science. The blueprint then drills down to the benchmark level. We know exactly what is on the WY-TOPP summative, interim and modular assessments. There are ELA, Math and Science blueprints for the summative, the interim and modular WY-TOPP assessments. The blueprints are available [here](#).

| 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) K - 3 | Begin: August 26 | | | | | Begin: Jan. 6 | | | Begin: April 2 | | | | |
| District Common Assessments (Required by District) | Begin: August 19 | | | | | | | | | End: May 24 | | | |
| ACCESS 2.0 (Required by WDE) The ACCESS is a English Language proficiency test administered annually. Grades: K-12 | | | | | | Begin: Jan. 24 | End: Feb. 25 | | | | | | |
| WIDA (Required by WDE) The ACCESS is a English Language proficiency test administered annually to students who do not have an ACCESS score. Grades: K-12 | Begin: August 19 | | | | | | | | | End: May 24 | | | |
| ACT (Required by WDE) | | | | | | | | | Begin: April 7 End: April 16 | | | | |
| Option 2 | | | | | | | | | Begin: April 21 | End: May 1 | | | |
| Option 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| WY:TOPP Modular (Optional) On demand formative assessments aligned to Wyoming State Standards (ELA, Math and Writing) for grades 1-11 | | Begin: Sept. 10 | | | | | | | | | End: June 12 | | |
| WY:TOPP Interim Fall (Optional) ELA: Grades 1-10 Math: Grades 1-10 Writing: Grades 3 ,5, 6 & 9 | | Begin: Sept. 10 | End: October 4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| WY:TOPP Interim Winter (Optional) ELA: Grades 3-10 Math: Grades 3-10 Writing: Grades 3 ,5, 6 & 9 | | | | | | Begin: Jan. 14 | End: Feb. 7 | | | | | | |
| WY:TOPP Interim Spring (Required by WDE) Reading: K-2 Math: K-2 | | | | | | | | | Begin: April 14 | End: May 8 | | | |
| WY:TOPP Summative (Required by WDE) ELA: Grades 3 - 10 Math: Grades 3 - 10 Science: Grades 4, 8 and 10 Writing: Grades 3, 5, 7 and 9 | | | | | | | | | Begin: April 14 | End: May 8 | | | |
| WY-ALT (Required by WDE) Wyoming Alternate Assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities. ELA: Grades 3 - 10 Math: Grades 3 - 10 Science: Grades 4, 8 10 | | | | | | | | Begin: March 3 | End: April 22 | | | | |
| WorkKeys (Optional) Grades: 11-12 | | | | | | | | | TBD | TBD | | | |

Young Author Competition

Young Author Competition fiction, nonfiction, and poetry entries will be accepted from K-12th grade students through Jan. 24, 2020.

- Fiction/Nonfiction books may not exceed 4,000 words. If it is over 3,000 words a word count must accompany the entry.
- A book of poetry may either be an epic poem or a collection of five (exactly) poems, and must include a table of contents.
- A book of poems should not include the word poem in the title.
- An author's name should not appear on the book. • All books should be in book form and no larger than 9" x 12".
- All books should have a front cover with a title, and a back cover, which is not part of the text.
- A Young Author entry form must be included with the entry. If you do not want to attach it to the work, you can use a library pocket card.

There will be district level certificates and prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners for each grade level and category. The district celebration will be held at RSJH Auditorium on Feb. 27 at 6:00 p.m. County level certificates will be awarded to one 1st place and two Honorable Mentions for each grade level and category. The county celebration will be held at RSJH Auditorium on Mar. 10 at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, entry forms/rubrics, or questions visit the SCSD#1 Young Author webpage or contact Tammy Macy at 352-3400 ext. 1259, 389-2415 or macyt@sw1.k12.wy.us.



January 2020

| <u>Monday</u> | <u>Tuesday</u> | <u>Wednesday</u> | <u>Thursday</u> | <u>Friday</u> |
|--|---|---|---|---------------|
| | | 1 | 2 Title I and III PLC Meeting PDC Room 8am-4pm | 3 |
| 6 Title I PD PDC Room 8am-4pm | 7 AMP Training PDC Room 12:30pm-4pm | 8 CCC Board Room 8am-11:30am Counselor SAC Board Room 12:30pm-4pm | 9 EL PD PDC Room 8am-4pm | 10 |
| 13 Board Meeting Board Room 6pm | 14 | 15 | 16 Fine and Performing Arts SAC PDC Room 8am-4pm ELA SAC 9 th -12 th Board Room 8am-4pm | 17 |
| 20 | 21 Science 4 th and 5 th PD Board Room 8am-4pm | 22 Science 6 th -12 th PD Board Room 8am-4pm | 23 | 24 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 Math SAC PDC Room 8am-11:30am CVE SAC PDC Room 12:30pm-4pm | 30 | 31 |