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

Fall 2021

Sweetwater County School District #1

In This Issue

Welcome Back!

Welcome back… wait, where did the first quarter go? Your Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment department has had quite a crazy first quarter of the year. We are excited to have received new Science resources (K-12), created Sweetwater #1 Virtual School (K-12), completed Acadience testing, have been busy ordering materials for department heads and schools, as well as working with our CLI representative Emily to update curriculum maps, proficiency scales, and assessments to reflect changes necessary as we hit the ground running in a four-day week calendar!

We have welcomed Annie Fletcher, the district At-Risk Oversight Coordinator to our team. She is working closely with families, agencies in
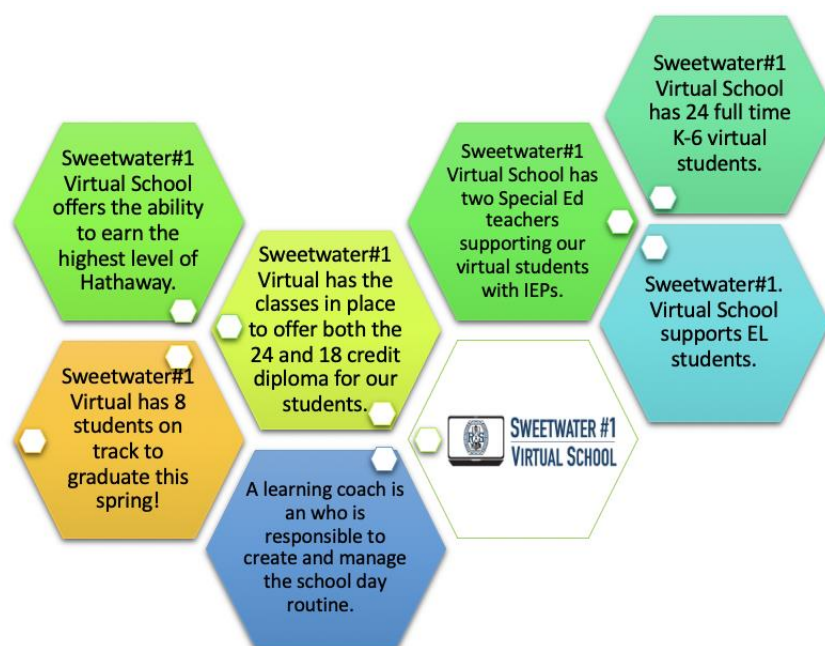
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SCSD #1 Mission: To provide a quality education for all students.

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.

town, and WDE grant personnel to create a support program to care for our at-risk population.

Professional learning started off with our keynote speaker, Dave Weber, sharing the important message that 'Words impact relationships, Relationships impact Culture, and Culture impacts results.' He reminded us of the '7 Me's I Am' and that we need to be a 'Frog Kisser' and not a 'Frog Gigger'. Our department appreciated hearing the countless positive comments on the PD survey about the message that Dave brought as we started the school year.

Solution Tree provided two great speakers, Tim Brown and Troy Gobble, who shared ideas on intervention/RtI/MTSS models, as we continue on the journey of implementing a strong intervention process in each school. The strong messages that were shared by these two amazing leaders included a focus on strong classroom instruction, delivering on a promise (to parents and students) that all students will learn, and designing a plan for intervention that works for students. Again, the positive feedback we received about the impact that these two speakers made on the start of the year was great to hear.

As a reminder, our department is here to support you with whatever we can provide to ensure your success!

Thank you for all you do each and every day!
Jodie

Sweetwater #1 Virtual School Launches for the 2021-2022

The Sweetwater #1 K12 Virtual School strives to provide tuition-free public school online learning opportunities. All required

materials will be delivered to your home. We are a Wyoming grown program that reflects Wyoming lifestyles and preferences while providing a high quality educational experience. Using innovative choice-based strategies, our program allows for true personalized learning. Whatever your learning goals are, we provide options from the elementary level up to the ability to earn a high school diploma. The virtual school is funded by the use of grant funds. The school uses Canvas K - 12 to deliver the instructional material to our students. Additional information can be found by clicking here.

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Changes in EL Teachers

2021-2022 Sweetwater County School District #1 EL Teachers		
School	**Teacher**	**Email**
Desert View Elementary	Kristin Legerski Doerr	legerskidoerrk@sw1.k12.wy.us
Stagecoach Elementary	Alejandrina Ramirez	ramireza@sw1.k12.wy.us
Northpark Elementary	Sandra Montoya	montoyas@sw1.k12.wy.us
Sage Elementary	Inger Sysser Duncan	duncani@sw1.k12.wy.us
Walnut Elementary	Sandra Montoya	montoyas@sw1.k12.wy.us
Eastside Elementary	Scott Pies	piess@sw1.k12.wy.us
Pilot Butte Elementary	Julie Wilmetti	wilmettiju@sw1.k12.wy.us
Rock Springs Junior High	Yolanda Delgadillo	delgadilloy@sw1.k12.wy.us
	Coulson Rich	richc@sw1.k12.wy.us
Rock Springs High School	Christine Pettibone	pettibonec@sw1.k12.wy.us

Last Normal School Year

The last normal school year

...for students in...	was
Grade 7	Grade 4
Grade 6	Grade 3
Grade 5	Grade 2
Grade 4	Grade 1
Grade 3	Kindergarten
Grade 2	never
Grade 1	never
Kindergarten	never

CCC & SAC Update

The Community Curriculum Council (CCC) met in October and reviewed/updated the CLI model, the curriculum quick guide, curriculum procedures and membership. Also, the CCC began the work on recommending the secondary standards based grading. The committee also worked on constructing a mastery statement for Sweetwater#1 and started a book study on "Grading from the Inside Out". Principals on the CCC will share the updated Quick Guide with the Principal PLC. Click here for a list of the people on the CCC.

 With the adoption of the 4 day work week, teachers are seeing the need to modify curriculum maps, proficiency scales and assessments. Subject Area Committees (SAC) are focusing on identifying priority standards (boulders), writing proficiency scales and aligning common assessments to match revisions. WY-TOPP blueprints, where applicable have been used to inform the curriculum changes. The SAC teams that have met so far this year include CTE, ELA, Math and Computer Science. Compensated additional evening time has been offered to all SAC teams to complete the work—additional opportunities will be available second semester and in the summer. About 50 people have participated in the additional work to date. With the changes, K-6 report cards will be updated using the newly revised benchmarks. Updated ELA and MA Curriculum Maps can be accessed by clicking here.

ACT Data

The aggregated ACT data for 2020-2021 has been released recently by the WDE. Below is a chart showing the ACT data trends for Sweetwater #1, Wyoming and our secondary schools. For additional disaggregated data, please click here and scroll down.

Grade Level	School (Year/Test/Subject Area)	Wyoming Average Score	SCSD#1 Average Score	BBHS Average Score	FEHS Average Score	RSHS Average Score
11th Grade	2016-2017 ACT English	18.8	17.1	14.2	20.7	17.2
	2017-2018 ACT English	18.4	17.3	17.3	19.4	17.2
	2018-2019 ACT English	18.4	17.2	16.5	18.5	17.2
	2019-2020 ACT English	Testing cancelled due to COVID				
	2020-2021 ACT English	17.8	16	16.3	16-8	15.9
	2016-2017 ACT Math	19.5	19.2	16.7	18.2	19.4
	2017-2018 ACT Math	19.3	18.2	17.8	19.1	18.2
	2018-2019 ACT Math	19.3	17.9	17.7	16.4	18.0
	2019-2020 ACT Math	Testing cancelled due to COVID				
	2020-2021 ACT Math	18.8	18	16.5	18.6	18.1
	2016-2017 ACT Reading	20.2	19.6	16.9	20.8	19.8
	2017-2018 ACT Reading	19.9	18.8	18.9	20.7	18.7
	2018-2019 ACT Reading	20.0	19.2	19.7	21.2	19.1
	2019-2020 ACT Reading	Testing cancelled due to COVID				
	2020-2021 ACT Reading	19.8	18.6	17.6	19.6	18.7
	2016-2017 ACT Science	20.0	19.1	17.0	20.8	19.2
	2017-2018 ACT Science	19.8	18.9	18.5	21.0	18.8
	2018-2019 ACT Science	19.8	19.2	18.5	19.8	19.2
	2019-2020 ACT Science	Testing cancelled due to COVID				
	2020-2021 ACT Science	19.3	18.5	18.2	19.6	18.7
	2016-2017 ACT Composite	19.7	18.9	16.4	20.3	19.1
	2017-2018 ACT Composite	19.5	18.4	18.3	20.1	18.3
	2018-2019 ACT Composite	19.5	18.6	18.3	19.1	18.6
	2019-2020 ACT Composite	Testing cancelled due to COVID				
	2020-2021 ACT Composite	19	17.9	17.3	18.8	17.9

Computer Science Standards

A group of K-12 teachers came together to unpack the Wyoming Content and Performance Standards for Computer Science. The team dug into the standards, which are grouped in grade bands, and assigned potential grade levels where the teachers will teach to mastery. The team created standards walls which propose where standards will be taught. At the next meeting, the team will make, review and revise the walls before starting to write draft curriculum maps. The Computer Science standards will be implemented during the 22-23 school year. To see a list of the Computer Science SAC team, please click here.
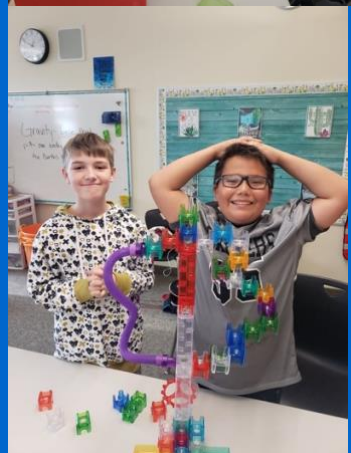
WY-TOPP Data

The WY-TOPP is the state assessment that measures reading, writing, math and science. The WY-TOPP test wasn't given during the Spring of 2020 but was readministered the Spring of 2021. The 20-21 WY-TOPP assessment data has been released to students and schools last month. The data is available by clicking here.

Parent Involvment for Student Achievment (PISA)

A committee consisting of 15 parents/community members, 7 teachers, 6 administrators, 5 district staff and 3 school board members met during September of 2021 to review data, generate questions, brainstorm solutions and recommend ideas on how to improve student achievement. The team analyzed WY-TOPP, Acadience, ACT, Climate and Culture data and generated questions. The themes that appeared after reviewing data and generating questions included: Instruction and Learning, College/Career Readiness and Job skills, Culture & Climate, Innovation and Post-Pandemic: Functioning in a Changing Society and Moving Forward, Leadership: Taking Risks and Community Partnerships & Service: Giving Back. Groups were then involved in a gallery walk where input from every person was charted. The teams then chose two high-impact strategies to be voted on by the group and consensus was reached. The group chose the following goals to work on:

- Build relationships with parents and community involvement
- Define priority standards and teach all students to mastery
- Embed purposefully planned relationship building in schools and classrooms

Action plans are being written by sub-committees and the draft plans will be forwarded to the Principal PLC, the Cabinet and the Sweetwater#1 Board of Trustees for action.

Gifted & Talented Update

The Gifted and Talented program has a new teacher this year, Kalista Pendleton. Welcome Kalista!   Kalista administered an interest survey and is getting to know each student, discovering their interests and passions. She is helping her students set short and long term goals and monitor progress towards meeting their learning goals. She is busy developing a class culture of learning, community and working together as a team.

The Gifted &Talented program will continue to screen 2nd grade students to identify possible candidates for the program. This will take place in May of 2022. This change in practice began the second semester of the 2020-2021 school year and has been very beneficial at identifying students with special talents.
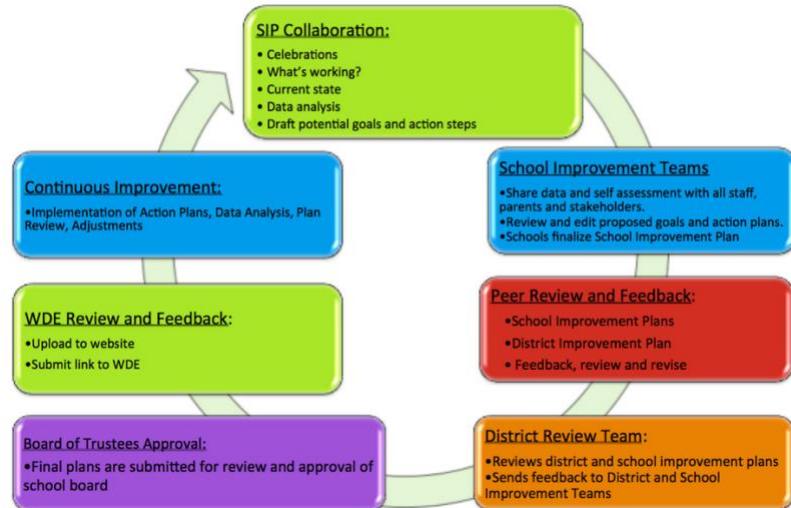
Gifted and Talented classes for 7th and 8th grade students began this Fall of 2020 at RSJH. The class (Gifted and Talented) is an elective class and will provide additional support and advanced learning opportunities for students in Sweetwater#1. The GATE I course is offered as an elective to identified gifted students. This course uses interdisciplinary units combining nature and the four other core education areas, along with creative and fine arts, technology, and engineering. It is designed to help students develop learning skills in areas such as collaboration, critical thinking, communication, and creativity through high interest, problem-based units.

Currently, the 3rd- 6th grade Gifted and Talented program in Sweetwater #1 is a pull-out program. Services are also provided to students in 7th and 8th grade. The students in grades 3rd-6th leave their regular classrooms for the day and meet at Eastside Elementary to learn with other gifted and talented students from other schools in the district. Students in 7th and 8th grade register for a class and are meeting throughout the week.

The students have been engaging in engineering projects, STEM projects as well as participating in challenges. Some of the challenges are the Pringles challenge, the plastic bag challenge as well as the index card challenge. To see more about the projects students are doing, please click here. To refer students for testing, via the AMP process, please contact Kalista Pendleton.

School Improvement Planning in Sweetwater #1

Sweetwater #1 Continuous School Improvement Process

SIP Collaboration:
• Celebrations
• What's working?
• Current state
• Data analysis
• Draft potential goals and action steps

School Improvement Teams
•Share data and self assessment with all staff, parents and stakeholders.
•Review and edit proposed goals and action plans.
•Schools finalize School Improvement Plan

Continuous Improvement:
•Implementation of Action Plans, Data Analysis, Plan Review, Adjustments

Peer Review and Feedback:
•School Improvement Plans
•District Improvement Plan
• Feedback, review and revise

WDE Review and Feedback:
•Upload to website
•Submit link to WDE

District Review Team:
•Reviews district and school improvement plans
•Sends feedback to District and School Improvement Teams

Board of Trustees Approval:
•Final plans are submitted for review and approval of school board

School improvement teams met during August and September to review data, discover celebrations and areas that need work. Sweetwater#1 is piloting a new template from WDE that all schools in Wyoming will be using next year. WDE valued the input from Sweetwater#1. The teams drafted plans, participated in peer reviews, made changes and submitted them to the Board of Trustees for review and approval. The SIP were approved October 11 and are available for review by clicking here. School Improvement Plans

Welcome Our New At-Risk Oversight Coordinator!

We are excited to introduce Annie Fletcher, who is our new At-Risk Oversight Coordinator! Annie is in her 25th year in education and has found that this new position has been a refreshing return to roots; advocating for and supporting students and families in challenging situations. The start of the year has seen a primary focus on our youth in transition. Over the course of the 2020-21 school year, SWSD #1 identified 66 students as in transition. To date, with the help of our building liaisons and school secretaries, we have identified 35 students that meet the criteria for students in transition (homeless). The past few months, Annie has been busy working to provide support for our identified families. This included gathering school supplies, supporting families in getting the necessary registration paperwork, as well partnering with the school foundation for school clothes, and working with the community to find stable housing, food, and fill other basic needs. Thank you to everyone as you keep your eyes and ears open and report students in need. For additional information, please click here.

Next, we are excited to announce the award of funding for Wyoming's Project Aware, cohort two, a mental health-focused outreach program funded through SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the Federal Department of Health). Sweetwater School District #1 will be one of three districts identified for support through this grant.   Over the course of a five-year grant cycle, Annie will work to provide direct student access to licensed mental health providers while continuing to work on increasing our stakeholders' knowledge and awareness of mental health concerns in our community. We are excited to see the positive impact this support will have on our students.

As always, Annie's door, email, and phone are always open, please reach out with questions and ideas. If you see a student in need, please contact her, as together we can move mountains for our kids.

Annie Fletcher
At-Risk Oversight Coordinator
Ext 1259
fletchers@sw1.k12.wy.us

Parenting Partners

During September teams from four of our K-3 buildings and the district came together for a Parenting Partners instructors training.   Parenting Partners focuses on building positive parenting skills by leveraging the collective parenting knowledge of the facilitators (that include parents) and the participants. The project, funded through Title I, aims to move parent involvement and engagement to an all new level; moving beyond meetings and parent nights to truly partnering with families to support other families who can in turn support even more families.

Stagecoach elementary bravely began first, they will have completed the six sessions just before Thanksgiving. So far, lessons have included building volcanos to demonstrate how arguments with our kids escalate as we add more and more until BOOM!; and learning to use a "shield" to deflect attempts of others to create or escalate conflict . All of the groups are excited to continue to integrate this new learning into our district, continuing to build capacity in our community.