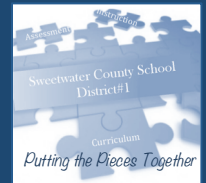




# Office of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Newsletter



*Mission: To provide a quality education for all students.*

*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.*

## 2014-2015 District Goals

**GOAL #1:** All students in Sweetwater County School District #1 will be proficient in Wyoming Content and Performance Standards in English Language Arts and Math.

**GOAL #2:** All stakeholders in Sweetwater County School District #1 will improve stakeholder communication by June 2015.

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### Academic and Operational Visioning Plans for 2015-2016

April 2015

The purpose of the vision setting process is to set an academic and operational focus for the district that will guide impactful decisions to propel our district to increased student achievement.

The academic and operational focus will help align our goals to achieve our Mission: *To provide a quality education for all students*; and 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.*

Using our Vision as our "North Star" the district will implement an Accreditation Improvement Priority: Establish a systemic process, guided by the purpose and direction of the district that will ensure horizontal and vertical alignment of curriculum, assessment, and instruction. This process should also inform support by resources, professional development, and evaluation systems that will frequently monitor implementation of all processes system-wide.

With these components in mind, district leaders and staff were involved in a series of meetings to gain stakeholder feedback to establish plans for the 2015-2016 academic year. Following is a timeline of the events and themes that emerged:

#### Timeline:

- Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> – Cabinet visioning for academic and operational focus
- Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> – Cabinet members and district academic leaders
- Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Cabinet member and district academic leaders planning session
- Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> Vision meeting- Academic and Operational leaders
- Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> Department and school building vetting sessions
- Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> District leadership team vision meeting
- March 5<sup>th</sup> District Instructional Task Force subcommittee meeting
- March 17<sup>th</sup> District academic leaders review Instructional Task Force recommendations
- March 24<sup>th</sup> All Academic leaders share recommendations to staff

#### Themes emerged from the vetting sessions:

Academic: Instructional planning time, calendar, relationships  
Operational: Compliance, training, safety, relationships

Operational Vision: Empower and celebrate staff by providing quality training and support focused on a commitment to students.

#### Academic Vision: Instructional Model

##### WHY

- We believe in providing quality instruction

##### HOW

- All staff will utilize professional time for standards-based planning/instruction, data-driven decisions, and assessment
  - Professional time
    - ✓ PLC's focused on data-driven purposeful planning
    - ✓ Professional development days utilized for assessment development/review, data-driven purposeful planning, aligning strategies and resources to support instruction
- Provide bell to bell quality differentiated instruction
- Build leadership capacity within the district to support quality instruction and professional development

##### WHAT

- The result will be increased teacher effectiveness
- The result will be consistency in quality instruction across classrooms
- The result will be increased student achievement and higher graduation rate
- The result will be college and career ready students

**\* To support quality teacher – student instructional time, the District will be moving from the current 16 professional development days to ten (10) embedded within the academic calendar.**

*Instructional Planning Sessions Offered to Support CFA Implementation*

As the district continues to provide support for the implementation of the K-6 English Language Arts Common Formative Assessment process, grade level planning meetings will be offered during the month of April. These meetings will provide time for grade level staff to work together on the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter CFAs to select instructional strategies and identify resources.

Classroom teachers, Special Education teachers, Interventionists, English Language Arts teachers, Library Media Specialists and Instructional Coaches have an open invitation to attend. The option to Skype is possible for staff at outlying schools. Those attending will be paid for the two hours. Resources will be posted on My Big Campus for those not attending.

Grade level meeting dates at the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter are on April 8 and 9, 2015. Meetings will be hosted by elementary school sites from 4:30pm-6:30 pm. See the chart for meeting locations. Grade level teachers and Instructional Coaches will facilitate grade level planning sessions. Attending teachers need to bring materials to plan. All CFA templates and assessments will be provided.

<b>Grade Level Common Formative Assessment Planning Meetings</b>		
	<b>April 8th 4:30-6:30</b>	<b>April 9th 4:30-6:30</b>
<b>Kindergarten</b>	<b>Sage</b>	
<b>1st Grade</b>		<b>Northpark</b>
<b>2nd Grade</b>		<b>Walnut</b>
<b>3rd Grade</b>		<b>Overland</b>
<b>4th Grade</b>	<b>Lincoln</b>	
<b>5th Grade</b>	<b>Pilot Butte</b>	
<b>6th Grade</b>	<b>Eastside</b>	

*Summer Academies*

The Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment department will be offering summer academies to support each building to continue: School Improvement planning, Achievement Monitoring Process/transitioning time, and Kindergarten Round-up/registration. All building requests for these summer academies will go through the building principal.

In addition to supporting individual schools, specific classes will be offered during the summer to support the district improvement goals of increased student achievement in ELA and Math. These classes will be outlined in a brochure available May 1<sup>st</sup>. Staff can register for sessions beginning May 1st. Please watch for a district news email in April to provide additional information.

*Curriculum Mapping Q&A****Why are we asking teachers to design the curriculum when there are experts out there who do this?***

Teachers within the district are our greatest resource to write curriculum for our district. The CLI process gives voice and choice for our teachers to have an impact in writing curriculum. The curriculum maps will reflect the values and beliefs of teachers in our district.

***Why did we hire someone to help us?***

Curriculum Leadership Institute is a non-profit organization that works with schools to improve student learning. The CLI model is a process that is researched-based and field-tested addressing curriculum, instruction and assessment as three interrelated and interconnected components of a solid, whole curriculum. CLI provides a step-by-step process, guidelines, and examples to lead our Subject Area Committees (SACs) through the process. The CLI model is adaptable to fit individual district needs and current instructional processes.

K-6 Elementary Standards Based Report Card

The standards based report card was first implemented in SCSD#1 at the Kindergarten level in the 2006-2007 school year. Since then, additional grade levels have implemented the standards-based report card to meet the standards-based movement. In 2012, the Wyoming Department of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards into the Wyoming Content and Performance State Standards. Since this change, the district has continued to align the report card to these standards.

The standards-based report card committee has reconvened to make changes based on feedback from administrators, staff and parents. The committee met February 18, March 11th, and March 31st to identify current viewpoints from stakeholders, review sample report cards and draft revisions. The committee will continue to meet with parents and teachers to seek input on the draft revisions. One additional meeting is scheduled for April 20th to finalize the report card and develop a communication plan for revealing the new report card format.

Elementary Parent Math Night

Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> will mark the last elementary parent math night of the school year. *Game Night* is the theme of the night at Eastside Elementary. Kindergarten through sixth grade students and parents will learn more about practices to engage and support a student's conceptual understanding and mathematical thinking skills. Participants will get to "make and take" games, receive a set of dice and cards, and have the chance to win a door prize.

Math Questionnaire Due April 13<sup>th</sup>

All kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade regular education teachers and all secondary math teachers have been asked to complete a questionnaire reporting what is actually taught in their classrooms. Information from these questionnaires will assist the Math Subject Area Committee write the K-12 math curriculum. This questionnaire must be completed by April 13<sup>th</sup>. Participants will be given some time during the April 13<sup>th</sup> professional development to complete the questionnaire. Questionnaires completed before April 13<sup>th</sup> can be turned in to a Math SAC committee member. See the chart below to find the committee member near you. If you need another questionnaire please contact Gwen Allgaier [allgaier@sw1.k12.wy.us](mailto:allgaier@sw1.k12.wy.us)

Math Subject Area Committee						
Name	Building	Grade Level		Name	Building	Grade Level
Angela Banks	Northpark	Kindergarten		David Galindo	Eastside	6th
Devon Sloan	Desert View	Kindergarten		Michelle Blake	Pilot Butte	6th
John Beitler	Wamsutter	Kind. - 1st		Mark Ellwein	Pilot Butte	6th
Sally Allen	Northpark	1st		Patty Mitchelson	Farson	6th-8th
Kelly Heitzmann	Sage	1st		Mark Bedard	RSJH	7th-8th
Tracy Maldonado	Westridge	2nd		Jacob Summers	RSJH	7th-8th
Tenesa Bledsoe	Walnut	2nd		Morgen Townsend	BBHS	9th-12th
Debbie Stainbrook	Desert View	3rd		Brandy Nutt	RSHS	9th-12th
Nancy McNutt	Overland	3rd		Hope Downs	RSHS	9th-12th
Jordan Erspamer	Lincoln	4th		Bernie Keslar	RSHS	9th-12th
Joeleen McCann	Desert View	4th		Barb Twomey	Eastside	Coach
Lyndsey Dorman	Pilot Butte	5th		Terri Hueckstaedt	Overland	Coach
Kendyl Chandler	Eastside	5th		Tammy Fausett	Sage	SAC Chair

### Sweetwater County Young Author Awards Ceremony

Student writers will be honored at the Sweetwater County Young Author awards ceremony on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Rock Springs Junior High School auditorium.

First place district level winners from Rock Springs, Green River and Holy Spirit Catholic School will find out who placed first in the county competition. These winners will then have their stories or poems submitted for a chance to move on to the state level. Honorable mentions and superintendent awards will also be announced.

For more information on the district Young Author celebration and winners please go to this link: [http://www.sweetwater1.org/site\\_res\\_view\\_template.aspx?id=cacc5250-0bc8-49a5-8c54-968a66615c78](http://www.sweetwater1.org/site_res_view_template.aspx?id=cacc5250-0bc8-49a5-8c54-968a66615c78)

### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual WyTECC Conference

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual WyTECC Conference will be held May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Rock Springs High School. Registration fee is \$65. Fees include attendance to the vendors, round table sessions, keynote sessions, break out sessions, opportunity to win door prizes, goodie bags, snacks, continental breakfast, and 2015 membership to WyTECC. The district will pay the registration fee for the first 100 employees who register. Registration website: <http://wytecc.wildapricot.org/Registration>

### Promethean Pre-Conference

Pre-conference sessions will be hosted by Promethean April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup> at Eastside Elementary School. These sessions coincide with WyTECC, but are not a part of WyTECC. Because these sessions take place during the school day, attendance approval will be limited to Instructional Coaches, Technology personnel, Assistive Technology Special Education teachers and one teacher leader per building.

*To see the pre-conference registration flyer and descriptions of the sessions click here.*

### Math Resources--Virtual Manipulatives to Assist with Teaching Mathematical Concepts

#### **Kindergarten through 8th Grade:**

The following site offers virtual manipulatives that can be used when teaching a wide variety of math concepts for K-8. While these should **not** take the place of concrete manipulatives during the initial stages of learning a concept, they do provide good pictorial representations of the manipulatives that can be displayed for the entire class to see. When you go to the site, simply click on the grade level on the left side of the page to choose from a variety of backgrounds and virtual manipulatives to assist in teaching nearly any math concept.

[http://www.glencoe.com/sites/common\\_assets/mathematics/ebook\\_assets/vmf/VMF-Interface.html](http://www.glencoe.com/sites/common_assets/mathematics/ebook_assets/vmf/VMF-Interface.html)

#### **Kindergarten through 2nd Grade:**

The following site is a virtual number rack or "rekenrek" that can be displayed for the class to see and can be used in conjunction with the children manipulating their own rekenreks. Up to 100 beads can be displayed by clicking on the "plus" button at the bottom of the page.

<http://www.mathlearningcenter.org/web-apps/number-rack/>





### *Black Butte High School Open to Students*

Newly constructed Black Butte High School opened its doors to students Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The project-based learning school is housed on the Western Wyoming Community College campus. Mike Maloney, principal of BBHS, and Superintendent McGovern appreciate the opportunity to partner with WWCC and thank college president, Dr. Karla Leach, for her help and cooperation in this endeavor.

The first day most students were still becoming acclimated to their new learning environment. However, a strong majority said they are thrilled to be in the new building.

"I will not miss the squeaky floors and the modular at I.H.S.," Rachael Wilson, senior at BBHS said, "The furniture and open space is my favorite part about the new building. The student lounge and student help desk are also very convenient."

Emily Aragon, sophomore at BBHS said, "My favorite part of the new school is the classroom space and the open feel of the building... all the windows are nice!" She went on to share about the alternative approach to academics, "I love the individualized focus on students here, the classes are smaller and it helps me. When I started at I.H.S. my grade point average was a 2.0 and within two semesters it has gone up to a 3.5."

Science teacher Sharon Padgett said she looks forward to utilizing the labs, open space and new resources Black Butte has to offer. "This newer building provides up-to-date and open work spaces which will be a safety improvement...it will be a joy to educate students in this new building."

Black Butte Principal Mike Maloney stated, "The unique opportunities now available to the students at BBHS are possible due in large part to the location. Students can utilize dual and concurrent enrollment, as well as, project-based learning." Maloney continued, "The new building has an entirely different atmosphere with windows in every classroom. In addition, the building helps facilitate new instructional materials, and state of the art technology."

*-Information provided by Angela Robinson, SCSD#1 Communication Coordinator*



*Lincoln Elementary School Focuses on Culture and Academics*

Students at Lincoln Elementary are participating in many exciting activities to encourage positive behavior, academic success, family partnerships, and a safe bully-free learning environment. Some activities that took place to promote these ideals are The Great Kindness Challenge, Donuts with Dads, Pie the Principal, and Positive Behavior parties.

The Great Kindness Challenge is a national event held January 26-30. During this time students and staff were encouraged to engage in as many random acts of kindness as possible. Lincoln Elementary participated by engaging in a door decorating competition, student checklists, school goal of 500 Kind acts, and class kind-act challenge. Lincoln students completed 2347 kind acts! Each class also shared a special kind act including decorated apples with kind messages given to staff and students, an apple pie presented to custodial staff, sweet thoughts and hand-crafted flowers delivered to everyone in the school, a sign expressing gratitude to lunch staff, and a huge thank you card for office staff.

Donuts with Dads is a community building activity organized by Lincoln Elementary PTO. Fathers and families enjoyed a breakfast of donuts and juice at school with their child. The goal was to celebrate families and continue to build and strengthen relationships between families and the school.

Pie the Principal is a motivating activity encouraging students to read throughout the entire year. Students from each class with the highest total minutes of reading get to pie the principal at an end of the year assembly and. This was a huge success last year with enormous participation across all grades and ability levels. Students are working hard building their reading minutes so that they may Pie the Principal this year.

Positive Behavior parties with the principal are arranged as students meet individual behavior goals. Every student is expected to follow Lincoln's expectations of being safe, respectful, and responsible. Students are rewarded with red paw tickets for behaviors aligning with these expectations. Once students have enough tickets they get to attend a themed party during lunch with the principal.

*-Information provided by Ramona Walls, School Counselor*

*Rock Springs High School Increased Graduation Rate*

Rock Springs High School revealed the strongest improvement of graduation rate in the district last year. The 2013-14 graduation rate of 83.55% raised 5.35% from the previous year's rate of 78.2%.

According to RSHS Principal, Darrin Peppard 83.55% is the highest graduation rate in the school's history. "Myself and the entire staff of Rock Springs High School are thrilled to see the school's strong improvements that ultimately benefit our students," Peppard said.

Students are provided relevant course work, including the career academies, helping them stay engaged in learning. Rock Springs High School has made the AP Honor Roll two consecutive years, and partners with WWCC allowing students concurrent & dual enrollment, as well as certification programs. These are just a few things attributed to the rising graduation rate at RSHS.

"I think a large part of our growth at RSHS is the quality instruction and relationship building between staff and students, eliminating students falling through the cracks... our staff does an excellent job at supporting the students with the programs we have in place," Darrin Peppard shared, finishing with, "the counseling department follows up with all students, focusing on individual student needs starting in 9th grade all the way up to the day they walk across that stage."

*-Information provided by Angela Robinson, SCSD#1 Communication Coordinator*

SAWS Assessment Cancelled for 2015

Governor Mead recently signed enrolled Act 50 into law. The new statute eliminates the Statewide Assessment of Writing Skills (SAWS) at grades 3, 5, and 7 from the statewide assessment system effective immediately.

**This means that the SAWS test scheduled for April 13 – May 1, 2015 is cancelled.**

The Wyoming Department of Education plans to continue support of standards-based instruction relative to writing through professional development sessions. Announcements regarding these sessions will be made via the WDE website and the weekly Assessment Updates.

Spring DIBELS Universal Screening & NWEA MAP Assessment

NWEA MAP testing will start April 14<sup>th</sup> for all grade levels. K-6 elementary schools need to complete testing by May 14<sup>th</sup>. Secondary schools have until May 30<sup>th</sup> to complete testing. At the K-6 grade levels spring data is used to place students in interventions for the upcoming school year. The amount of students testing, availability of computers needed for MAP testing secondary level students and additional End-of-Course testing dictates the need for extra days to complete testing.

DIBELS testing is scheduled as follows:

Lincoln-April 20 <sup>th</sup>	Northpark-April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Overland-April 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Sage-April 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup>	Eastside-April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Walnut-April 28 <sup>th</sup>
Pilot Butte-April 29 <sup>th</sup>	Westridge-May 4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	Farson-May 6 <sup>th</sup>
Desert View-May 7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Desert School-May 12 <sup>th</sup>	

Make-up testing days are scheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Secondary DIBELS CARI testing will take place at Rock Springs High School May 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>.**

MAP Testing Tips and Reminders

Students can easily be duplicated within the NWEA MAP testing system. If duplication of student profiles occurs, testing records for the student will not align and historical data will not be available.

The best way to search for a student in NWEA is to use the student's Wiser ID. This is the 8-digit number issued by the state. If the student is still not found in the search, they may be new to the system. Debbie Varras or Jessica Peppard will add or transfer the student so they are available to test at their current school.

ACT Testing in April

The window for ACT Explore (9<sup>th</sup> graders) and ACT Plan (10<sup>th</sup> graders) is scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup> through May 12<sup>th</sup>. Optional ACT Compass testing for 12<sup>th</sup> graders will take place during this window, as well.

Eleventh grade students will take the ACT Plus Writing April 28<sup>th</sup>. The make-up date for eleventh grade ACT Plus Writing is May 12<sup>th</sup>.

The optional WorkKeys test takes place April 29<sup>th</sup>, with the make-up day on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

# April 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2 Spring Break	3 Spring Break	4	5
6 Spring Break	7 Spring Break	8	9 Subject Area Committee (PE/Health)	10 Subject Area Committee (PE/Health)	11	12
13 8-4 CCSS Math (SDE)	14 CCSS Math (SDE) Expert Team Subject Area Committee (Math)	15 Subject Area Committee (Math)	16	17	18	19
20 Universal Screening Starts	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

# May 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Community Curriculum Council (AM)	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Memorial Day 25	26	27 Placement Decisions Meeting	28	29	30	31

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