



SCSD#1 Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Newsletter January 2018

In this issue... PD Plan, Canvas Update, Wy-TECC Info, RSHS hosts UW Professor, BBHS hosts String Ensemble, Educational Leadership articles, Young Author Reminder, WY-TOPP Winter Info, DIBELS Info, Diving Into Data, Assessment Calendar, Upcoming Events

USDOE Counseling Grant School Supports

The objectives of this grant are to expand counseling services at the project schools (Desert School, Eastside, and Pilot Butte) closing the gap of student to counselor ratio, along with decreasing student office disciplinary referrals. The impact to the project schools has been significant. Office Disciplinary Referrals have decreased an average of 65% in the project schools since the start of this grant in 2015.

Principal of Pilot Butte Elementary, Susan Dickman says, "Having an additional counselor in the school has allowed us to add services such as Happy at Heart (grief group), meeting the social/emotional needs of more students' school wide, and additional support with Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) efforts in the school. We have been able to implement a mindfulness component to work with students that may need more strategies to deal with problem behaviors, mindfulness/relaxation groups, and providing students with another adult with whom they can connect/seek out for additional support."

Jared Hardman, Principal at Desert School, noted, "With the USDOE Counseling Grant we have been able to assess our current needs of our student population and balance the ship to provide better support to students. We have fully embraced the PBIS framework and worked as a team to assure all staff are up to date on their role in the school. We have been able to implement a school store, incentives, parent counseling nights and more in depth counseling support. We have decreased our office major referrals by 50 percent for the elementary school and 93 percent for the Middle school. Moving forward we will continue to stress the importance of tier 1 support from all staff

members. This can be simple things as greeting a child every morning with a smile. Letting them know that they are supported and continue working with our current counselor to ensure the work we have done with PBIS continues to stay current and refreshed in our building."

Students at Desert School prepare to watch the eclipse.



Eastside's new mascot hosts Donuts with Dad

Counselors bring the [NED Show](#) to Pilot Butte.

Never give up, Encourage others, Do your best



Academic Vision: To implement the Instructional Model which includes purposeful planning, quality instruction, resources, and assessment.

Professional Development Plan

The purpose of the SCSD#1 Professional Development Plan is to guide PD opportunities in the district and be a resource to administrators and educators. The plan includes three main sections: Characteristics of Quality Professional Development, Professional Development Framework, and the Sweetwater County School District #1 Professional Development Plan. This month Characteristics of Quality Professional Development is being highlighted.

A comprehensive professional development plan is a system that supports continuous learning and improvement for educators that results in increased student achievement. Effective professional development is results-driven, standards-based, content-rich, school-centered, and job-embedded.

Please review the [SCSD#1 Comprehensive Professional Development Plan](#) to learn more about the five Characteristics of Quality Professional Development.

Canvas is coming to SCSD#1

Canvas is an online learning management system (LMS) built to simplify teaching and learning by connecting all the digital tools teachers use in one easy place. The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) has signed a contract to provide [special statewide pricing of Canvas to all school districts](#). Post-secondary institutions using canvas include University of Wyoming, Western, Central, Eastern, and Northern Wyoming Community Colleges as well as Laramie County Community College. Canvas will provide a seamless transition for all students K-12 into the post-secondary setting.

SCSD#1 Information Technology Department is working with Canvas to set up and provide access for 7–12 teachers who would like to begin setting up content in their classrooms during the second semester. Canvas provides a blended learning environment and features reporting, resource-sharing, feedback, discussions (collaboration) and content creation tools. Students in grades 7-12 will have access for the 2018– 2019 school year.

If you are interested in creating content in your classes, please complete a helpdesk ticket.



7th Annual WyTECC Conference - Tinkers & Thinkers

Saturday, May 5, 2018 the 7th Annual WyTECC conference will take place from 8:00am to 4:00pm at the Western Wyoming Community College Green River Campus. Participants could earn .5 PTSB credit.

The district will pay for the first 50 employees from SCSD#1 to register. Early bird registration for \$25 begins Friday, December 22, 2017 and runs through Wednesday, February 14, 2018. After this date registration will be \$35.

To register or for more information contact Dr. Cristy Pelham pelhamc@sw1.k12.wy.us or 307-352-3425.

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RSHS hosts University of Wyoming Professor Daniel Dale

Dr. Daniel Dale, a professor of Physics from University of Wyoming, visited the Rock Springs High School campus on Thursday, December 14, 2017 to work with Mrs. Watkins' science classes. Dr. Dale taught a very brief lesson on planets outside of our solar system (exoplanets), how to analyze transit signatures of multiple planet

systems, as well as identified criteria used to determine habitable (goldilocks zone) planets in distant galaxies.

As part of the UW Science Initiative, UW science professors are visiting schools across Wyoming to promote science, along with STEM, in the state.

Governor Mead envisions

Wyoming's science programs earning a top-tier status across the nation.



Black Butte High School hosted *Strings of the Season* in December. They performed their Christmas Program.



Richard Gilewitz, Tim and Gretchen May are nationally acclaimed artists who play a variety of string instruments, such as 6 and 12 string guitar, violin and banjo mandolin.



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Mental Health in Schools

The December 2017/January 2018 issue of Educational Leadership is dedicated to Mental Health in Schools.

In the article, [The Bonds of Social-Emotional Learning](#), author Nadja N. Reilly says “To address mental health conditions like depression, schools must foster emotional safety for students and teachers alike.”

[Getting the Buffalo Off Their Chests](#) authors Connie Titone, Erin Feldman, and Marie DeRosato write about mindfulness in the classroom. The article states, “Issues that have been linked mostly to adults, such as anxiety and depression, are becoming serious concerns for young people.” The authors cite, “Evidence supports the fact that students who practice mindfulness have increased feelings of calmness, relaxation, and self-acceptance (Broderick & Metz, 2009) as well as decreased negative affect (Mendelson et al., 2010), and stress Mendelson et al., 2010; White, 2012).

A video column by Douglas Fisher and Nancy Frey, [Teachers as Early Warning Detectors](#), states, “Teen suicides are rising. Teachers have a role in halting the trend.” This article has a video component that can be accessed at the end of the article.

The 2017-18 Letters About Literature contest is open!

Letters About Literature is a Library of Congress national reading/writing promotion program for students in grades 4-12. Students are asked to read a book, poem, or speech and write to the author (living or dead) about how the book affected them personally. Students compete in three age categories: Level 1 (grades 4-6), Level 2 (grades 7-8), and Level 3 (grades 9-12). Letters are judged on state and national levels. Wyoming winners in each level will receive a \$150 Amazon gift card for 1st place, \$100 card for 2nd place, and \$50 for 3rd place. Please review the [guidelines](#), or visit <http://library.wyo.gov/services/literacy/letters-about-literature/> for more information.

Postmark entry deadline for Wyoming participants is January 12, 2018.

Young Author Competition

Fiction, nonfiction, and poetry entries will be accepted from K-12th grade students through Feb 1, 2018.

- **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 21 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 Green River Lincoln Middle School Auditorium Mar 14 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@swl.k12.wy.us.

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English Learner ACCESS Testing

Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners, ACCESS for ELLs, is used to determine English proficiency in kindergarten through 12th grade EL students. The ACCESS testing window opens January 23rd and ends February 27th. All students who are identified as limited English proficient participate in the ACCESS test including students who refuse services. English Learner teachers at each school will develop a testing schedule to support completing the ACCESS test during the testing window.

WY-TOPP Winter Testing

Winter Requirement

The WY-TOPP winter window for the interim assessment is January 16, 2018-February 9, 2018. Reading and math winter WT-TOPP interim assessments will be required by the district for 1st and 2nd grade students to prepare them for the upcoming state required summative WY-TOPP assessment in the spring. WY-TOPP winter interim assessments are optional for grades 3-10. Modular tests are currently available for grades 3-10. Science interims and modulars are still not available.

Support

As in the fall, we will be supporting 1st and 2nd grade teachers during their initial WY-TOPP test. Please let Debbie Varras or Jessica Peppard know your testing schedule if you would like on-site support.

Accessibility

Once 1st and 2nd grade teachers are set up in the testing system, they will be required to watch the training video in order to administer the assessment. All 1st and 2nd grade students and teachers, along with new students in grades 3-10, will be imported into the testing system at the beginning of second semester. If you are unsure how to find them, please download [Accessing the WY-TOPP Certification Video](#) and [Starting a WY-TOPP Test Session](#).

Grades 1 & 2 Interim Info

The number of items on the assessments may vary because the assessments are adaptive. All 1st & 2nd grade students will need headphones for the winter WY-TOPP interim assessment.

Resources

New resources have been added to the [Sharepoint WY-TOPP Resources](#) webpage. Look for the Components of WY-TOPP, WY-TOPP Scoring, Questions WY-TOPP Assessment Data Answers screenshots from the latest WY-TOPP webinar. Samples of the style of questions for 1 & 2 math and ELA have also been added to Sharepoint-Math K2 WY-TOPP Interim Sample Style Questions and ELA K2 WY-TOPP Interim Sample Style Questions.

Questions

Contact Debbie Varras varrasd@sw1.k12.wy.us or Jessica Peppard peppardj@sw1.k12.wy.us with any questions.

Winter DIBELS Universal Screening

The [Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills \(DIBELS\)](#) are short (one minute) fluency measures used to regularly monitor the development of early literacy and early reading skills. SCSD#1 uses these assessments in kindergarten through sixth grade.

DIBELS Universal Screening will be January 8-23, 2018. Tammy Macy has scheduled school testing days with principals. Contact your administrator for your school's individual date and schedule.

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District Student Demographics

Demographic data is the information that describes a school's or district's student population. This data can include student ethnicity, race, gender and much more. The

demographics outlined in the chart

below are students eligible for free or reduced lunch, students who receive services under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA/Special Education), and students who are still learning the English language (Title III/EL). Collecting data about school and district demographics paints a clear picture of the make-up of the school or district. One of the most important reasons for collecting student demographic data is for administrators and teachers to make informed decisions about instruction and programs so each student is provided with an appropriate education.

SCSD#1 Demographics December 18, 2017	
Total Number of Students	5447
Female	48.80%
Male	51.20%
American Indian	1.96%
Asian	0.70%
Black	1.93%
Hispanic	9.11%
Multiracial	1.80%
Pacific Islander	0.26%
White	84.25%
English Learners (EL)	6.43%
Free Reduced Lunch Eligible (FRL)	38.00%
Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA)	14.12%

[Assessment Calendar is available for download here.](#)

DRAFT 2017-2018 Sweetwater County School District #1 Assessment Calendar DRAFT									
Assessment	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May
DIBELS Universal Screening (Required by District) Grades K-3	September 18-28				January 8-19			Begin: April 30	End: May 11
WY-TOPP Interim-Fall (Required by District) Grades 3-10 Reading Grades 3-10 Math Grades 3, 5, 7, 9 Writing		Begin: October 23	End: November 17						
WY-TOPP Interim-Winter (Grades 1 & 2 required by District) Grades 1-10 Reading Grades 1-10 Math Grades 3, 5, 7, 9 Writing					Begin: January 16	End: February 9			
WY-TOPP Interim-Spring Grades K-2 Reading (Required by WDE) Grades 1-2 Math								Begin: April 16	End: May 11
WY-TOPP Summative-Spring (Required by WDE) Grades 3-10 Reading Grades 3-10 Math Grades 4, 8, 10 Science Grades 3, 5, 7, 9 Writing								Begin: April 16	End: May 11
WY-TOPP Modular (Optional)	Available for grades 3-11— On Demand								
WY-ALT (Required by WDE) Grades 3-11 Reading Grades 3-11 Math Grades 3-11 Science						Begin: February 26	End: March 28		
ACT (Required by WDE) Grade 11								April 10-12 Make Up April 24	
WorkKeys (Optional) Grade 11-12								Begin: April 17	End: May 1
ACCESS for ELLs (Required by WDE) Grades K-12					Begin: January 23	End: February 27			
WIDA Screener Grades K-12	New EL students who don't have an ACCESS for ELLs score.								
District Common Assessments	Math, Health/PE								

January						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Report Card Committee Meeting Board Rm 4:00-6:00	5	6
7	8 DIBELS Testing Begins Board Meeting Board Rm 7:00	9 Science SAC Board Rm 8:00-4:00	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 CCC Meeting Board Rm 4:00-6:00 Winter WY-TOPP window opens	17 EL Family Engagement Night Board Rm 6:00-7:30	18 Dist Dept Chair/ Teacher Leader Meeting Board Rm 4:00-6:00	19	20
21	22	23 DIBELS Testing Ends Report Card Committee Meeting Board Rm 4:00-6:00	24 K-2 Foreign Language Literacy Meeting Board Rm 8:00-4:00	25	26	27
28	29	30 SS SAC Board Rm 8:00-11:30 Fine & Performing Arts SAC Board Rm 12:30-4:00	31 Math SAC Board Rm 8:00-11:30 Health/PE SAC Board Rm 12:30-4:00 Data Teams Consultant Visit			

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February						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 CVE SAC Board Rm 8:00-4:00 Data Teams Consultant Visit	2 Data Teams Consultant Visit	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Winter WY-TOPP window closes	10
11 Board Meeting Board Rm 7:00	12	13	14	15 Professional Development Day	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Dist Dept Chair/ Teacher Leader Meeting Board Rm 4:00-6:00	23 Data Team Training Board Rm 8:00-4:00	24
25	26 CCC Meeting Board Rm 3:30-6:30	27	28			