



# Sweetwater County School District #1 Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Newsletter

April 2017

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## ***Teacher Leader Positions Open for 2017-18 Academic Year***

Improving schools is complex and challenging; it cannot be done without strong leadership. The Sweetwater County School District #1 Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Department is pleased to once again offer the Instructional Teacher Leadership Opportunity, designed to challenge and support instructional leaders across the district to develop their leadership skills and instructional strategies. The instructional teacher leadership opportunity will focus on supporting the instructional model expectations:

- *Support a collaborative culture of collective responsibility for our students' learning*
- *Roll out of the curriculum maps in alignment to the Wyoming Content and Performance Standards*
- *Support quality lesson design and purposeful planning*
- *Use and Implementation of technology into lesson planning*
- *Support the implementation of newly adopted resources in English Language Arts and Secondary Foreign Language*

Look for the District News email with information on how to apply to be a Teacher Leader for the 2017-2018 academic school year. The Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Office will accept applications until May 1, 2016. Download more information and the application form [here](#).

A big thank you goes out to the current teacher leaders for their assistance in supporting the implementation of a new math resource, purposeful planning and IPRs: Meagan Doporto, Courtney McKasy, Aaron Huff, Heather Biggs, Cedric Philo, Jordan Erspamer, Andrea Carroll, Crystal Richardson, Tenesa Bledsoe, Candi Ruffini, Deanah Fullmer, David Galindo.

## ***Mission:***

*To provide a  
quality  
education for all  
students.*

## ***Vision:***

*Is an innovative  
district, united  
with our  
community, we  
empower and  
inspire all  
students to  
academic  
excellence in  
pursuit of their  
interests and  
passions.*

## ***New Resource Recommended for Secondary Foreign Language***

### **Why were Avancemos (Spanish) and Bien Dit (French) selected for Foreign Language in SCSD#1?**

These programs use a thematic approach to present the material from novice to intermediate-advanced proficiency levels. The materials were found to be research-based with ample authentic cultural relevance to the target languages.

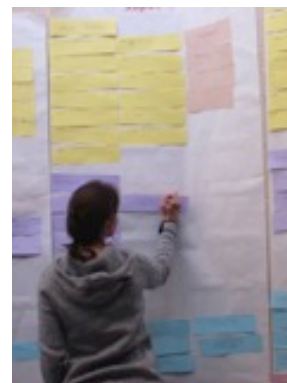
Avancemos/Bien Dit is structured as both an online and print resource. Parent surveys indicated the need for access to online resources. The online component includes all student and teacher materials, assessments, and flexible class data management tools. Online digital access to every text will engage students, maximizing their learning experiences in reading, writing, and language development.



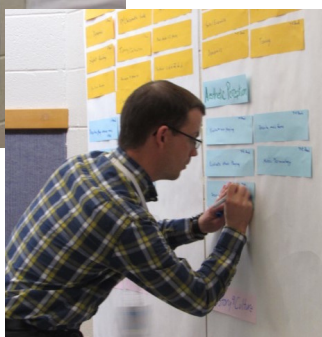
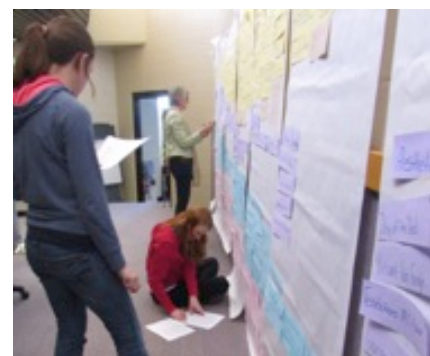


### Fine & Performing Arts begins Curriculum Mapping

The Fine & Performing Arts (FPA) Subject Area Committees (SAC) met in March to begin curriculum mapping. SAC members reviewed Fine & Performing Arts questionnaires from staff and recorded their teaching topics on colored strips of paper. Each different color designated a FPA standard. Each colored paper was taped onto large pieces of paper organized by grade level or course. The SAC reviewed the walls looking at alignment, coverage of standards, redundancy, appropriateness and made notes of any skill gaps.



Vertical K-12 conversations were held and the committee discussed missing or underrepresented standards as well as decided "who owns what." The SAC committee also began working on their subject area mission statement and purpose statements. The FPA



SAC will meet May 30th through June 2nd to complete their draft curriculum maps. The maps will be piloted and validated during the 2017-2018 school year.

### 2017 Summer School

Grades 9-12 summer school will occur May 30-June 23, 2017. Grades PreK-8 will occur July 17-28, 2017. Remaining funds from the Bridges Grant and I-D monies will fund secondary summer school. Secondary schools will follow the Bridges Grant requirements. District funds allocated for summer school/extended day will be utilized for the PreK-8th grades, which needs to occur after July 1. There are no longer requirements on class size, number of instructional hours or professional development requirements specified. Due to the reduction in funds a much shorter timespan will occur for elementary students and a reduction in salaries will occur as well. See the [attached calendar](#) for summer school timeframes. Summer school administrator positions are currently posted on Applitrack. Summer school staff positions will be posted for internal applicants on April 24.

The following locations will be utilized for summer school:

BBHS: Grades 9-12 (May 30-June 23)

RSJS: Grades 9-12 (May 30-June 23)

RSJH: Grades 6-8 (July 17-28)

Stagecoach: Grades 3-5 (July 17-28)

Stagecoach: Grades PreK-2 (July 17-28)

Desert/Farson-Eden: Grades PreK-8 (July 17-28)

*The Farson-Eden Community Center will be utilized for summer school in Farson.*





### 2017-18 Consumable Products Ordering Process

The window for ordering consumable curriculum orders for the 2017-2018 academic year is March 27-April 27, 2017. Orders will be placed through the same SharePoint process as last year. Two optional open forums were held in March, and two more will be held (on a volunteer basis) to assist staff with the ordering process on April 4<sup>th</sup> 7:00-7:30am and 4:00-4:30pm in PDC Room at the CAB. All teachers can ask their school secretary, District Department Chair, Administrator, or the CIA office for assistance with SharePoint orders. For step-by-step directions, please visit [SharePoint](#).

*Please note that the English Language Arts/English Learner and Foreign Language resources will come out of the 2016-2017 budget and are not available to order on SharePoint.*

### Young Authors County Results

Young Author county celebration was held March 29<sup>th</sup>. County winners' stories were sent to the state competition.

Results are available on the [Young Author webpage](#)



Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>

Lincoln Middle School, GR

\$65 Registration

To register--[WyTECC](#)

More info--Dr. Cristy Pelham  
[pelhamc@sw1.k12.wy.us](mailto:pelhamc@sw1.k12.wy.us)

### CIA Puzzler Winners!

The first CIA Puzzler winners are:

*Darlene Baker  
Koral Hueller  
Barb Twomey*

All three winners received a book from the CIA library. Look for more Puzzlers in upcoming CIA newsletters.

### Curriculum Map Validation

Remember to complete the [validation surveys](#) for English Language Arts, Informational Literacy, Foreign Language and Math. Feedback on the curriculum maps from all teachers is valued and appreciated. Feedback may include changes such as alignment, additions, deletions, reordering of targets/benchmarks, or clarifying the language of a target/benchmark. Teacher feedback is given to the Subject Area Committees and recommendations are analyzed, discussed, and changes are made to the curriculum maps.

### Date Change for Data Teams Support

Due to scheduling conflicts, spring data team on-site coaching visits with Weston Kieschnick are canceled. With the many changes occurring within PLCs it will be advantageous to postpone this follow-up training until the fall.

The new timeframe for coaching visits will occur Aug 29-31, 2017 and Sept 19-21, 2017.

### The Roots of Comprehension

The Educational Leadership magazine article *The Roots of Comprehension* states, "Studying Latin and Greek word origins make vocabulary instruction resonate." Read the [full article](#) to learn more!

### 2017 Summer Academies

Many summer academies are taking place in June this year. Sessions are offered in English Language Arts, English Learner, Foreign Language, Mathematics, Technology, Accommodating All Students, and Special Education.

The registration window for summer academies is April 18 – 28. Registration is on a limited basis until sessions are full with registration for up to 5 sessions. Staff members not continuing their contract with SCSD#1 are not eligible to participate. For more information please visit the Summer Academy webpage which will become live on April 18.



### Taking Gifted & Talented On the Road

During PAWS testing, Gifted & Talented Teacher Dr. Cristy Pelham visited all eight K-4 schools plus Desert Elementary and Farson-Eden Elementary to provide enrichment activities to kindergarten, first, and second grade students. Criteria from fall NWEA MAP scores were utilized for selection of services. During this time students worked on collaborative problem solving, creativity and innovation, engineering and design, critical thinking and communication, visual and tactile learning, patterns, following directions, and a variety of other STEM related concepts. Each lesson can be tied to common core, International Society for Technology in Education Standards, 21st Century Skills, and the Gifted and Talented standards. The students rotated through stations, working alone, with a partner, or in groups to complete each activity.

~Information provided by Dr. Cristy Pelham, Gifted & Talented Teacher

#### Lego Station

Animals or modes of transportation were built with Legos by following step-by-step instructions. If a specific Lego could not be located students problem solved to find a different size or color to fit the needs of the project.



#### Cubelets Station

Students built three different creations using magnetic robot blocks: a flashlight, a scaredy-bot, and a car-bot with a headlight. If students did not use the

correct cubes in the exact position as the directions state, the bots did not operate correctly.



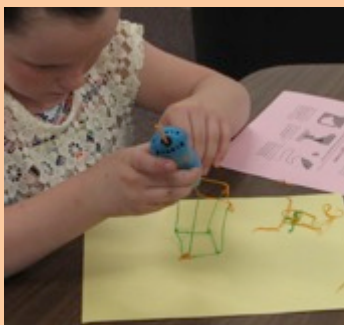
#### Rubik's Cube Station

Students tried to solve the cubes by getting all the same color squares on one side. A hint guide was available for them to use.



#### 3Doodler Station

Students used the 3Doodler pens to create cubes by following easy steps. The pens heat up the Eco-Plastic. The students draw a flat square first then, draw up to complete the cube. These 3D pens were purchased with funding from a Sweetwater BOCES grant.





NWEA MAP Spring Testing Begins April 18

The window for MAP testing in SCSD#1 will open April 18. All students are required to test both Reading and Math in grades K-9. The elementary testing window closes May 5 and the secondary testing window is extended until May 18.

Last fall, many schools were successful using the iPads to administer MAP tests. Please check with Stacie Smith [smithst@sw1.k12.wy.us](mailto:smithst@sw1.k12.wy.us) to verify that the NWEA MAP app has been loaded onto the iPads that will be used for testing.

For a refresher on proctoring and trouble shooting while administering the MAP tests, please see our [MAP brochure](#), which includes tips and video links to help ensure a successful testing session. If you would like testing support or a refresher training, please contact Debbie Varras [varrasd@sw1.k12.wy.us](mailto:varrasd@sw1.k12.wy.us) or Jessica Peppard [peppardj@sw1.k12.wy.us](mailto:peppardj@sw1.k12.wy.us)

### Upcoming Assessments

- The **ACT Aspire** testing window is April 10 - May 3. ACT Aspire is the online state assessment given to all students in grades 9-10, except students with significant cognitive disabilities who participate in alternate assessments per their IEPs.
- All 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will participate in the **ACT + Writing** assessment on April 19 or on the make up day, May 3. ACT is the state assessment given to all 11<sup>th</sup> graders except those with significant cognitive disabilities who participate in alternate assessments per their IEPs.
- The **NWEA MAP** testing window opens April 18. K-6<sup>th</sup> grades must complete MAP testing by May 5 to allow time for the AMP chairs to complete the process of reviewing data for students in need of intervention. Secondary students must have the MAP tests complete by May 18.
- **DIBELS Universal Screening** window is April 24-May 5. All students in grades K-3 will be screened as well as students scoring at the 40<sup>th</sup> percentile and below on NWEA MAP test.

*Current and upcoming testing events are highlighted.*

<b><u>DRAFT 2016-2017 Sweetwater County School District #1 Assessment Calendar</u></b>									
<b>Assessment</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>December</b>	<b>January</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>
<b>Universal Screening</b> Grades K-3	Begin: Sept. 19 End: Sept. 30			Begin: Dec. 5 End: Dec. 16				Begin: April 24	End: May 5
<b>MAP Testing</b> Grades K-9		Begin: Oct. 3	End: Nov. 18					Begin: April 18	End K-6: May 5th End: May 18
<b>PAWS Testing</b> Grades 3-8							Begin: March 6 End: March 24		
<b>WY-ALT</b> Grades 3-11						Begin: Feb. 28	End: March 24		
<b>ASPIRE</b> Grade 9 and Grade 10								Begin: April 10	End: May 3
<b>ACT Plus Writing</b> Grade 11								Initial: April 19	Make-up: May 3
<b>ACT COMPASS (Optional)</b> Grade 12		Begin: Oct. 3 End: Oct. 21							
<b>NAEP</b> Grades 4 and 8					Begin: Jan 30		End: March 10		
<b>WorkKeys</b> Grade 11 - 12								Begin: April 19	End: May 3
<b>ACCESS for ELLS</b> Grades K-12					Begin: Jan 24	End: Feb 28			
<b>WIDA W-APT Placement Test</b> Grades K-12	<i>New ELL students who don't have an ACCESS for ELLS score.</i>								



April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 Universal Screening Closes	8
9	10 Spring Break Board Meeting 7pm Board Rm Aspire Window Opens	11 Spring Break	12 Spring Break	13 Spring Break	14 Spring Break	15
16	17 Spring Break 9-12 Student Accountability Climate Survey Opens	18 MAP Testing Window Opens	19 ACT + Writing Test Day  WorkKeys Window Opens	20 District Dept. Chair Meeting 4-6 PDC	21	22
23	24 Social Studies SAC 8-4 Board Rm	25 Social Studies SAC 8-4 Board Rm	26 Math/Health/PE Assessments 8-4 Board Rm	27	28 Community Curriculum Council 8-11:30 Board Rm  9-12 Student Accountability Climate Survey Closes	29
30						

May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Apple Training 8-4 Board Rm	3 Apple Training 8-4 Board Rm  Aspire Window Closes ACT + Writing Make-Up Day WorkKeys Window Closes	4 Apple Training 8-4 Board Rm	5 MAP Window Closes for K-5	6
7	8 Board Meeting 7pm Board Rm	9 ELA SAC 8-4 Board Rm	10 ELA SAC 8-11:30 Board Rm  Info/FL SAC 12:30-4 Board Rm	11 District Department Chair Meeting 4-6 PDC	12	13
14	15 Community Curriculum Council 8-4 Board Rm	16 Math SAC 8-4 Board Rm	17 Math SAC 8-11:30 Board Rm	18 AMP Data Review 8-4 Board Rm  MAP Window Closes for 6-12	19 AMP Data Review 8-4 Board Rm	20
21	22	23 BBHS Graduation 7pm WWCC Theatre	24	25 Farson-Eden Graduation 6:30pm FEHS Gym	26 Last Day for Students & Teachers	27 RSHS Graduation 10am Tiger Stadium
28	29 Memorial Day	30 F & P Arts SAC 8-4 Board Rm	31 F & P Arts SAC 8-4 Board Rm			