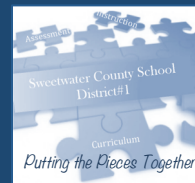




Office of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Newsletter



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.

March 2015

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What is the Curriculum Leadership Institute (CLI) and why are they here?

The Curriculum Leadership Institute is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving curriculum, instruction and assessment practices of school districts across the country. The CLI believes the real experts in curriculum are teachers. They understand the content that should be taught along with the values of their school district.

Using a systematic approach the CLI works with Subject Area Committees (SAC) to write a local K-12 curriculum. The curriculum will be aligned to state standards, as well as, vertically aligned. Teachers will then use the draft curriculum to make sure it works as intended. Revisions will be made as necessary.

After the curriculum is finalized, the SACs come back together to write common assessments to be used by all teachers of the same grade level or class. Results from common assessments will compare instructional practices ensuring all students are learning to their maximum potential in all classes.

The main difference between the CLI and other curriculum consulting services is the consultant. The CLI consultant will assist the district with more than just writing the curriculum. After the curriculum is written and finalized, the consultant will continue working with the district on instructional practices and assessment. To ensure long-term sustainability the Community Curriculum Council (CCC), an advisory committee, evaluates practices over time and makes recommendations for improvement. It is the intent that over a period of time the CLI will no longer be needed and that the CLI Model will be used without the guidance of a consultant.

In addition, this process will help SCSD#1 work toward the Improvement Priority set forth by the AdvancED Accreditation External Team to "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."

Long-Range Curriculum Mapping Process

SUBJECTS	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23
Math	C	VC	R/A	VA		C	VC	R/A	VA
Health/PE	C	VC	R/A	VA		C	VC	R/A	VA
ELA		C	VC	R/A	VA		C	VC	R/A
Info Lit/Foreign Language		C	VC	R/A	VA		C	VC	R/A
Science			C	VC	R/A	VA		C	VC
Fine and Performing Arts			C	VC	R/A	VA		C	VC
Social Studies				C	VC	R/A	VA		C
Career Vocational				C	VC	R/A	VA		C

Abbreviations

C —Development of curriculum documents

VC—Implementation and validation of the new curriculum

R —Resource selection

A —Development of common outcome assessments

VA—Implementation and validation of the new assessments

Curriculum Mapping Q&A***Why are we beginning a brand new curriculum process when we could just continue to build off the previous process instead?***

The Curriculum Leadership Institute (CLI) process takes into account where SCSD#1 is currently functioning and the previous work that was done. As the curriculum mapping process is implemented curriculum, instruction and assessments will be aligned in a systematic manner. The previous process implemented by SCSD#1 did not systematically align all components of curriculum, instruction and assessment in a manner that was connected to the district's purpose and direction.

Why are we curriculum mapping when we have standards?

Standards are the minimum benchmark students must meet. Standards alone are not the curriculum. Curriculum is comprised of benchmarks and learning targets. The curriculum mapping process will organize the standards to make them teachable, honor what SCSD#1 values and guarantee what students will learn.

Math Resources

Check out this website for teaching ideas and tasks for all grade levels! <http://youcubed.stanford.edu/>

13 Math Rules that Expire

1. When you multiply a number by ten, just add zero to the end of the number.
2. Use keywords to solve word problems.
3. You cannot take a bigger number from a smaller number.
4. Addition and multiplication make numbers bigger.
5. Subtraction and division make numbers smaller.
6. You always divide the bigger number by the smaller number.
7. Two negatives make a positive.
8. Multiply everything in the parentheses by the number outside the parentheses.
9. Improper fractions should always be written as a mixed number.
10. The number you say first in counting is always less than the number that comes next.
11. The longer the number, the larger the number.
12. Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally.
13. The equal sign means *Find the answer* or *Write the answer*.

To see why these math rules expire, click here.



DEAR MATH,
I'M NOT A THERAPIST.
SOLVE YOUR OWN PROBLEMS.

Elementary Parent Math Night

Monday, April 13th will be the last parent math night of the year. Eastside Elementary welcomes kindergarten through sixth grade students and parents to this culminating event. Participants will learn more about practices that will engage and support a student's conceptual understanding and mathematical thinking skills through the *Game Night* theme. Attendees will get to "make and take" games, receive a set of dice and cards, and have the chance to win a door prize.

4th Annual WyTECC Conference

The 4th annual WyTECC Conference will be held May 1st and 2nd at Rock Springs High School. Keynote speakers include Wes Fryer, Leslie Fisher and Sherry Crofut. 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 on Friday, continental breakfast and snacks on Saturday, 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 30th and May 1st 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.

Sessions include ActivTable and Early Childhood Classroom, Foundational Skills, Using your Resources, Advanced Skills, Making Dynamic and Engaging Flipcharts, Tech Solutions, and Lead Teacher. Prices and times of pre-sessions vary.

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

CIA Updated Website

Many of the pages on the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment department website have been updated with new information.

Changes and information are updated weekly.

Click here to check it out!

2014-2015 Young Author Contest Results

Sweetwater County School District #1 students competed in the annual Young Author Contest. Students in grades kindergarten through twelve submitted 325 entries in the categories of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Entries are judged using a 6+1 trait scoring rubric provided by the state.

The Young Author Committee recognizes all participants with a Certificate of Participation. First, second, and third place winners were commended at a celebration on February 25th in the auditorium of Rock Springs Junior High School. First place winners received a plaque while second and third place winners received a certificate and journal. First place winners go on to compete against other first place winners from Sweetwater County School District #2 and Holy Spirit Catholic School. These students will be recognized at the Sweetwater County Young Author Contest Awards Ceremony on April 9, 2015 in the Rock Springs Junior High School auditorium.

"As always, I appreciate the effort that students put into their writing entries. The judges and I enjoy reading them and hope the students continue to write and be excited to write. I hope that students continue to submit entries to the Young Author contest. Thank you to all of the students, parents and teachers for continued support of the Young Author Contest."

--Tammy Macy, District Young Author coordinator

Fiction Winners**1st Place**

Bailey Anderson(K)
Lilac DeCastro(1)
Logan McCann(2)
Aubrielle Maes(3)
Skylar Messick(4)
Megan Zotti(5)
Rikki Cozad(6)
Hannah Crockett(7)

2nd Place

Carsten Gerrard(K)
Kenidee Scott(1)
Skyler Riddle(1)
Maddison Vandenberg(2)
Ashlynn Giovale(3)
Makenzi Scott(5)
Harmanee Geddie(4)
Alex Riley(6)
Karson Keeler(7)

3rd Place

Adyson Huffman(K)
Will Carlson(K)
Luke Tate(1)
Azaylee Cornelius(2)
Vanessa Gonzalez(2)
Angel Pizarro(3)
Kyndall Storey(4)
Kennedy Shassetz(5)
Abby Hautala(6)
Mikayla Shauers(7)

Non-Fiction Winners**1st Place**

Tahlia Knudsen(K)
Kiera Layne(1)
Bailey Amundsen(2)
Ryan Zotti(2)
Steven Hickerson(3)
Sage Romero(4)
Wendy Reynoso(5)
Kaytlyn Keeler(8)
Laiba Fatima(9)

2nd Place

Ava Garner(K)
Hailey Johnson(1)
Zach Schoenfeld(1)
Jamilynn Stauffer(2)
Kaylee Mann(3)
Christopher Benboe(4)
Aurora Kozminski(5)
Averi Christensen(8)

3rd Place

Faith Bowen(K)
Grace Gatti(K)
Autumn Guffey(1)
Haylee Franco(2)
Izabele Frady(3)
Jeremiah Fennell(4)
Trevor Jones(5)
Kaytlyn Keeler(8)

Poetry Winners**1st Place**

Teague Powell(1)
Lizzie Jensen(2)
Marcella Hall(3)
Carter McBurnett(4)
Mykenzy Davis(4)
Yesi Vicencio(5)
Maddison Dimick(6)
Rebecah Winward(7)
Kaytlyn Keeler(8)
Aubrie Ellis(9)
Emily Winward(12)

2nd Place

Bailey McGuire(2)
Angel Pizarro(3)
Ana Macias(4)
Cody Hall(5)
Seanna Latimer(6)
Xochitl Alvarado(7)

3rd Place

Bradoc Powell(2)
Brycen Coombs(3)
Ireland Hansen(4)

Kindness Matters at Walnut Elementary

The **Great Kindness Challenge** is one week dedicated to creating a culture of kindness on campuses worldwide. The challenge is a proactive, positive, bullying prevention initiative that improves school climate and increases student involvement. This week is devoted to performing as

many acts of kindness as possible. Schools used a checklist of 50 kind acts (i.e. smile at 25 people, hold the door open for someone, say “good morning” to 15 people, say “thank you” to the crossing guard, etc.). Students were encouraged to accomplish the 50 acts on campus, at home and in the community.

This year’s challenge took place the week of January 26-30 and included 2,193,284 students in 4,142 schools in 45 countries. Walnut Elementary School, along with all SCSD#1 elementary schools, was among the 4,142 schools that participated in the Great Kindness Challenge.

Walnut Squirrels were greeted with a “Kindness Matters” banner as they walked into school Monday morning. Daily announcements started The Challenge with a kindness quote and a challenge to every student to complete the kind acts checklist. Teachers played a video introducing The Challenge and distributed challenge charts students. The Squirrels were also challenged to dress in kindness attire: Tuesday-Team Kindness (sports gear), Wednesday-Ride the Waves of Kindness (beach/surfer attire), Thursday-Global Kindness (international clothing), Friday-Kindness is the Squirrel Way (spirit wear).

At the end of each day kindness quotes were read and students were reminded of the theme for the next day. Throughout the week students presented hearts to friends and teachers and made posters stating “Kindness Matters” thanking the custodial staff and lunchroom personnel. On Friday, second grade presented flowers to office staff and Mrs. Cundall thanking them for all they do for the school.

The week was full of fun activities and challenges for the Squirrels. Main goals of The Challenge were increasing student awareness that kindness matters and making positive changes in school climate and community.

-Information provided by Jim Mahaffey, Counselor-Walnut Elementary

Desert View Data Review Process

Professional Learning Communities at Desert View Elementary focus on four specific questions to guide their data review during meetings: **What do we want students to know? How will we know they have learned it? What will we do for those who didn’t get it? What did we do for those who already had it?**

Grade level teams, along with English Language Learners teachers, Special Education teachers, the Instructional Facilitator and counselor, attend a data meeting every day 5 of the 6-day rotation. The team members look at ‘short cycle’ or formative data in reading, writing and math as it pertains to their four PLC questions. The PLC leaders have all developed a different form to record answers to the questions. Team members found this data fit perfectly into their Achievement Monitoring Process (AMP) where they consider how to help students who consistently miss the grade level objective. Flex group meetings are scheduled weekly on Tuesday or Thursday. In these meetings grade level teams, Title I, SPED and ELL teachers look at progress monitoring data for students who have three data points below the aim line. The effectiveness of the student’s current intervention is evaluated and adjusted. Their progress is then re-evaluated in the coming weeks. The Desert View teams found this process makes their AMP process more authentic.

After refining the PLC data process, the principal and teachers at Desert View decided they wanted parents to look at data the same way it is reviewed during PLCs. Desert View Elementary hosts one grade level parent night per month. During these events parents are shown a class graph. Their child’s scores are highlighted so parents can see how their child has grown and where they are in comparison to benchmarks. Parents are given ideas, games, and encouragement for use at home to help students reach these benchmarks. Families participating in grade level nights are provided food and given board games, homemade games, books and hugs. At the most recent kindergarten night 40 families were in attendance! Other grade level nights continue to grow as the school year progresses.

-Information provided by Jennifer Figenser, Principal-Desert View Elementary



NWEA MAP Resources: RIT to Resource

RITtoResource.org is a quick, easy way to enhance student learning. Using NWEA MAP data, students, parents and teachers can access free instructional resources aligned to the students' MAP test scores. There are two tabs on the initial page of the website, Instructional Resources and RIT Summary. The Instructional Resources Tab can be searched using a RIT Score or Grade Level. Then choose the assessment, choose a goal area, then sub-goal area, then type in the goal RIT score. Standards and benchmarks pop up; choose a benchmark by clicking in the box. If resources are available, click on the green box (Show Results) at the top of the page to access targeted resources. Resources might include planning, videos, Power Points and testing materials.

Pathways of Progress™: A research-based goal setting utility from the authors of DIBELS

DIBELS users requesting evidence-based guidelines for establishing goals prompted DIBELS authors Roland H. Good III and Ruth Kaminski to create a novel utility to determine realistic rates of growth for individual students based on the progress they observed by other students with the same beginning-of-year DIBELS Composite Score.

Named Pathways of Progress, the utility takes a student's initial Composite Score for the school year and shows five Pathways that correspond to a potential level of performance: well above typical, above typical, typical, below typical, and well below typical.

The Pathways goal-setting utility shows the expected end-of-year score for a measure for each of the five Pathways and also allows users to set an end-of-year goal and see which Pathway the student would need to follow in order to meet the goal. The "Student Pathways of Progress Graphs" report allows for a visual inspection of the level of progress needed to accomplish ambitious year-end goals. The Pathways

of Progress aimlines can also be displayed on the "Student Progress Monitoring Graphs" report.

The information provided by Pathways allows educators to set ambitious yet realistic goals for students, aiding in the acceleration of progress toward the DIBELS Next benchmark goals. It can also help evaluate the effectiveness of the overall system of support at a classroom, school, or district level.

Dr. Good and DMG Senior Research Scientist Dr. Kelly Powell-Smith presented the methodology behind Pathways of Progress at the 2013 Pacific Coast Research Conference. A copy of the handout from their presentation is available to download. Dr. Good and Dr. Powell-Smith also created a Pathways of Progress overview video. Both can be accessed at http://dibels.org/pathways_of_progress.html.

Pathways of Progress is currently only available to customers of the DIBELSnet® data reporting service. For more information about DIBELSnet or to view a sample Pathways of Progress Report, visit <https://dibels.net/>.

Name	BEGINNING OF YEAR	END OF YEAR COMPONENT SCORE PATHWAYS				END OF YEAR OVERALL PATHWAY	
	DIBELS Composite Score	DORF Words Correct Score	Pathway	DORF Accuracy Score	Pathway	DIBELS Composite Score	Pathway
Bleck, Jack	115 ■	88 ■	5	98% ■	5	277 ■	★★★★★
Blin, Sara	121 ■	60 ■	3	98% ■	5	205 ■	★★★★
Bracken, Mary	154 ■	51 ■	1	73% □	1	130 ■	★
Clayton, Henry	113 ■	40 ■	2	95% ■	4	167 ■	★★★
Colins, Emma	103 ■	84 ■	5	99% ■	5	275 ■	★★★★★

PAWS/SAWS Testing Resources

<http://edu.wyoming.gov/educators/assessment/materials/>

March 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 8-11:30 Building Initiatives 12:30-4 Grade Prep	28	29
30	31					

April 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2	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	15 Subject Area Committee (Math)	16 Subject Area Committee (Math)	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Universal Screening Starts	28	29	30			