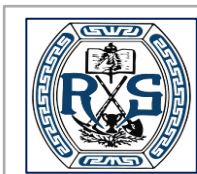


**SWEETWATER COUNTY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT #1**

## May 2019 Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Newsletter

**In this issue... Honoring our Students, Social Studies Recap, Math Teachers to Realign District Curriculum Maps and Common Assessments, EL Teachers Curriculum Map, Validation Reminder, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade ELA Year Review, Dr. Anthony Muhammad at Eastside, WDE Improved Computer Science Standards, Save the Date, Reminders and Calendars**



Sweetwater County School District #1 will create and foster academic success through partnerships with its schools, community and families.

-Recognize and celebrate student, family, community and employee contributions.

### Honoring our Students

#### Rock Springs High School

This April, Rock Springs High School Performing Arts department put on a truly magical performance of The Little Mermaid. There was singing and dancing, interactive audience scenes, and even flying! From the actors and actresses, production and lighting teams, set crews, director, music and choreograph it was an absolutely amazing performance. Congratulations to everyone on their hard work and making such a wonderful time for family, friends, staff and students to enjoy!



## Honoring our Students

### Desert View Science Fair

Fourth grade students at Desert View held a Science Fair in April. The students investigated everything from electricity and gravity to bacteria and mold. Creativity at its best! It is evident that Desert View students understand scientific inquiry. Students spent individual time with judging teams presenting their projects which included sharing their purpose, hypothesis, materials and procedures, data, research and conclusions. The fourth-grade students are role models for all students in their school. Families were invited to attend the Desert View Science Expo night where awards were presented. Students and their families did an amazing job! Mustang pride!



### **Social Studies Recap**

Now that our resources are arriving at the schools here is a reminder about what was selected and the rationale for selection.

#### **Social Studies Committee K -3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>**

As a Social Studies Resource Adoption Committee, we have come to a consensus to adopt HMH: Kids Discover. Of the resources reviewed we found this resource most closely aligned to the district's curriculum maps. After diligent consideration of the resource being efficient, effective and feasible, HMH: Kids Discover will meet the needs required. HMH includes a broad range of learning opportunities including the following: consumable magazines, google expeditions, cross curricular activities, technology integration, suggestions for differentiation, and a user-friendly teachers guide.

#### **Social Studies Committee 4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

The fourth-grade teachers on the Social Studies Resource Adoption Committee have chosen to keep the current resource, Wyoming Crossroads of a Continent. We chose to keep this resource because it aligns with the Wyoming Social Studies standards and the Sweetwater School District #1 Social Studies Curriculum Map. In addition to keeping this resource we have requested the following supplemental resources:

- Additional copies of the Wyoming Student Atlas that addresses map skills and Wyoming geographic information.
- The Wyoming Floor map which addresses and enhances student understanding and engagement of map skills and geographic knowledge.
- Native American Studies new to the Wyoming State Social Studies Content Standards which are located on the Wyoming Department of Education website under the Native American Education tab.
- Lastly government and civics information that can be accessed through the IXL Social Studies program as we are looking at purchasing licenses for 4<sup>th</sup> grade students.

#### **Social Studies Committee 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>**

The Social Studies Resource Adoption Committee for grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> have chosen TCI (Teacher Curriculum Institute) History Alive! - The Ancient World/ The United States Through Industrialism/Geography Alive, for its multimedia materials and activities. TCI provides engaging, real-world curriculum that is centered around the seven multiple intelligences. The curriculum moves past the typical "sit and get" and provides teachers with modifiable lessons that include engagement strategies, activities, and interactive games. As a committee we also looked at the ease of use when it came to the text and online accessibility for the teacher as well as the student. Another benefit is that there is EL and Special Ed components that provide scaffolding for students that are struggling to understand the content. We were impressed that the resource includes engaging enrichments for our advanced learners as well.

#### **Social Studies Committee 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>**

The Resource Adoption Committee at the secondary level has chosen to adopt the McGraw Hill curriculum and resources. After evaluating the effectiveness, efficiency, and feasibility of the available options, we found that McGraw Hill was able to meet most of our needs and addressed the concerns that we felt were missing from our current classroom curriculum. The textbooks from this collection aligned with our current curriculum maps and offered ample supplementary assessments to enhance student engagement and understanding.

This resource also offered several online components that will provide opportunities for students to have access to relevant news and events. A few examples of these are, BTW Current Events Blog and You Decide-Election Central sites that allow students to follow the most up-to-date information about the midterm elections. These sites are updated with stories that are happening now so that students can make a connection with the content. We felt that McGraw Hill offered the best resources for rigor and relevance for our students.

Another component of the McGraw Hill materials that we found beneficial was the ability to translate assessments and reading levels for our ELL students. It also offers the ability to support struggling readers with the Learn Smart Program which allows for differentiation of reading levels based on the students' needs. Overall, we really felt that McGraw Hill offered the best framework to help support our staff and our students with the tools needed to learn about the world we live in.

We are looking forward to implementing a new and valuable resource for Social Studies this 2019-2020 school year!



## Math Teachers Meet to Realign District Curriculum Maps and Common Assessments

Math teachers met April 2 to realign district curriculum maps and assessments to the newly adopted Wyoming State Math Standards. This is the Math SACs second round in writing curriculum maps and designing common assessments. Math teachers noticed a variety of changes on the Wyoming State Math Standards such as a new format, cross disciplinary connections, mathematical practices and changes in content. The cross-curricular connections are referenced in the following content areas: Science, Career and Vocational Education, Physical Education, Social Studies, Fine & Performing Arts, Foreign Language, ELA and Health. The SAC team members worked to make sure Sweetwater #1 maps and assessments were aligned to the state standards. The maps and common assessments will be updated on the website and SharePoint during the summer. Next year, teachers are able to validate the curriculum maps and common assessments by [clicking here](#).

## English Language (EL) Teachers Curriculum Map



District wide EL teachers met on April 16 to identify opportunities for improving EL work based off of the English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum map. A curriculum map is the best way to understand what it is that EL teachers do to support student acquisition of the English language. The new maps will allow for a common language, common vocabulary, common expectations and coordinate learning activities with ELA district wide.

Mapping began with the EL teachers analyzing the ELA curriculum maps. Using the ELA maps to coordinate and write an EL map is what makes this process is very unique and exciting for EL and all teachers alike. The EL teachers examined and unwrapped the ELA benchmarks and purpose statements

to determine the content to be supported in the classroom and taught to EL students. Also, teachers analyzed the depth of knowledge (DOK) the students are required for performance.

The maps will align to the benchmarks and correspond to student expectations by EL levels. Level 1 being the beginning English learners to Level 4 which is a higher advanced English learner. Teachers also used EL rubrics, WIDA resources and "can do" statements to inform the writing process.

Like other content areas, the maps will be in draft form and teachers will have the opportunity to pilot and recommend (validate) changes next year. In the future, EL teachers will be developing common assessments. The next meeting will be on May 9 to finish writing the curriculum maps.

## Curriculum Map and Common Assessment Validations

Remember to complete your curriculum map and common assessment validations. This information is used by the SAC teams to modify maps and assessments.

To complete a validations, [click here](#).

Don't forget :

## 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade English Language Arts Professional Development Year in Review

During the 2018-2019 academic year, the second and third grade teachers along with administrators met over the course of four to five sessions. This time provided an opportunity to delve deeper into understanding the components of their English Language Arts standards and the alignment to the adopted resources. Specifically, the teams worked horizontally and within their Professional Learning Communities to engage in:

- Data analysis
- Review of District expectations
- Outlining of the tiers and the resources available in each
- Modeling of resources available within each tier
- Setting goals, action steps and planning time
- Foundational skills focus
- Lesson components within ReadyGEN
- Understanding the rigor
- Questioning skills

In summary, all the staff attending were surveyed to determine ongoing needs for training. The results of the surveys noted that over 90% of the participants felt the training met its objectives while over 88% of the participants felt their knowledge increased due to the training. Each training was directly aligned to the participants comments and requests. Ongoing training will continue to occur in the form of ELA summer academies and selected grade levels during the following academic year.



## Dr. Anthony Muhammad at Eastside Elementary

Dr. Anthony Muhammad spent the day at Eastside Elementary as part of the School Improvement Grant (SIG) in alignment to the school's improvement plan for the 2018-19 school year. Dr. Muhammad met with certified staff throughout the day to take a deeper look at the 3 Big Ideas in Professional Learning Communities (PLC) work. The teams collaborated in thoughtful discussion and next steps towards collective commitment. The end of the school day celebrated students and staff. Dr. Muhammad led an assembly with positive messages to all students about believing in themselves.





A decorative border of ladybugs surrounds the entire page. The border consists of a top row of 9 ladybugs, a bottom row of 9 ladybugs, and two vertical columns of 7 ladybugs each on the left and right sides. The ladybugs are red with black spots and green antennae.

## State Board Partners with Department of Education to Improve Computer Science Standards

**CHEYENNE – The Wyoming State Board of Education (SBE) voted on Thursday to have a review committee continue to examine a draft set of Computer Science standards.**

Walt Wilcox, Chairman of the State Board noted, “As many in the audience have suggested, it’s better to get these right than rush to approve them. We’ll work to meet our timeline imposed by the legislative mandate and approve standards that are best for the children of Wyoming. It is important this is done by delivering focused and simplified high-quality standards that are realistic for educators to deliver and attainable for learners.”

The SBE took testimony from more than 50 individuals regarding the draft Computer Science standards. While many in the audience praised the rigor and comprehensiveness of the standards, others asked the board to “tap the brakes” on the approval process and refine the standards to make them more accessible, especially at the elementary grade levels. After two unsuccessful motions, the State Board voted to fund another two-day meeting of the Computer Science Standards Review Committee, so it can revise the draft sComputer Science Standards for further consideration by the SBE and be approved for rules promulgation and further public comment.

By state law, the SBE has until January 2022 to approve the standards. However, the standards have to be implemented fully by fall of 2022, and several SBE members said they hope to have approved standards ready to provide the necessary time for curriculum development, professional development, and a phased implementation plan. The Computer Science Standards Review Committee will meet again in early April and try to refine the computer science standards in advance of the board’s next meeting.

Additionally, the SBE voted to convene a committee of practitioners to review the entire set of content standards in 10 subject areas. The board has received input from hundreds of educators and parents that the totality of content standards could be too much to deliver effectively, given the timeframe of the 175-day school year. The board hopes to receive input from educators, parents, and other stakeholders about how to advise the WDE and its standards committees in drafting new sets of standards that are rigorous, but less comprehensive.

## District-Wide Transition Day

In order to support students in transitioning to a new school and/or grade level, the Sweetwater County School District #1 will be facilitating a district Transition Day on May 17, 2019. Students within the 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades will have an opportunity to travel to their respective sites to meet the staff, tour the school and engage in some exciting activities geared at preparing them for the new academic year. In addition to students traveling to their new schools, students may also have the opportunity to transition within their current building to another grade level classroom within the same building. This event is focused on providing our students with a welcoming learning environment and an opportunity to build a positive relationship prior to the start of the new year.

# Save the Date, Reminders, and Calendars

## *Save the Date!*

For  
Sweetwater County School District #1's



**Consolidated Grants and Federal Funding**  
**May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 5:00pm–7:00pm At Eastside Elementary**

With special Guests Eastside D.O.G.S and Rock Springs Junior High Culinary Class Showcase

## Summer Academies

Summer Academies start May 30, 2019 – August 8, 2019

Here is the link for the [At-a-Glance Calendar](#)

Have a happy summer with lots of fun learning!



## Summer School 2019

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			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	28	29	30	31	

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						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	28	29
30						

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	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
28	29	30	31			

## Weekend and Holidays

**May 27: Memorial Day**

**July 4: 4th of July**

## May

30th & 31st Incoming 9th - 12th BBHS/RSBS in session

## June

3rd - 26th Incoming 9th - 12th BBHS/RSBS in session

## Graduation Date Reminder

Black Butte High School  
-May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Farson-Eden High School  
-May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

Rock Springs High School  
-May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## Back to School

August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Teachers

August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Students



# May 2019

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
		1	2	3
6 PLC Training 8am-4pm WWCC	7 PLC Training 8am-4pm WWCC	8 CCC Meeting 8am-4pm Board Room	9 EL PD 8am-4pm PDC Room  Consolidated Grants Open House 5pm-7pm Eastside Elementary	10
13 AMP Training 8am-4pm Board Room  Board Meeting 6pm Board Room	14 AMP Training 8am-4pm PDC Room  Science SAC 8am-4pm Board Room	15 ELA SAC 8am-4pm Board Room	16 EL PD 8am-4pm PDC Room  Counselors Meeting 8am-4pm Board Room	17 District-Wide Transition Day
20 Title I PD 8am-4pm PDC Room	21	22	23 Last Day of School for Students	24 Last Day of School for Teachers
27 Memorial Day District Closed	28 Curriculum Mapping/Common Assessments 8am-3:30pm Board Room	29 Curriculum Mapping/Common Assessments 8am-3:30pm Board Room	30 First Day of Academies  Secondary Summer School Begins	31