



SCSD#1 Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Newsletter March 2018

In this issue: What's Working, FOSS Science Kits Reorganized, Gifted & Talented Future City, 3rd Grade hosts Engineers, Social Studies Resource Adoption, Title IVA, Spring PD, Young Author Results, EL Resources for Teachers, CANVAS, SCSD#1 Mobility, New WY-TOPP Info, Upcoming Events

What's Working at Black Butte High School

Black Butte High School's 2016-17 graduation rate was 62% while four years ago it was only 20%! All who work and attend BBHS are proud of this accomplishment.

In February, the BBHS Bionic Bears Robotics team attended the state robotics championship in Casper. Students learned a lot, made many new friends, and are making plans to return next year better than ever. The team overcame challenges and showed gracious professionalism.



Bionic Bears with the Robotics Competition judges.



A STEM grant was utilized for the purchase of a Tower Garden with which biology and botany students will learn the science behind hydroponics. Students will soon have fresh vegetables to eat for lunch.

Two teams of girls are participating in the the Girls Go CyberStart Challenge. Check out the [BBHS Facebook](#) page to see results from the competition which runs from February 20-25, 2018. Visit <https://girlsgocyberstart.com/> for more information on the Girls Go CyberStart Challenge.

Check out the [BBHS Facebook](#) page for more good things happening at Black Butte High School!

~Information provided by Sharon Seaton, Science Teacher, BBHS

What's Working at Desert School

As counselors at Desert School we spend time with students helping to support their social/emotional growth which in turn supports them academically. I love that I get to be there for students when they need someone to listen, to work through a difficult situation, cheer them on, or celebrate a success. Focusing on PBIS with the help of the counseling grant, we've been able to decrease office disciplinary referrals significantly. The best reward is seeing students happy, healthy, and successful.



~Information provided by Jessica Castillo, Counselor, Desert School

What's Working at Walnut

The adventure that is counseling is a journey that puts into play many amazing skills. Walnut Elementary's Counseling Program strives to meet the needs of all stakeholders including students, parents, teachers, administrators, and community agencies. Student support is facilitated through many avenues including classroom counseling, group counseling, and individual counseling. I work diligently towards fostering a positive environment, where all individuals feel safe and



welcome. Different instruction, activities, programs, and school-wide initiatives are implemented to facilitate positive social interactions and academic growth. Practical solutions are implemented to support the development of desirable and socially appropriate behavior for students in need of additional behavior management support. The mental and emotional well-being of the Walnut Family is a priority, and I am blessed with an opportunity to cultivate a counseling program that encourages compassion, confidence, and a love for learning.

~Information provided by Ramona Walls, Counselor, Walnut Elementary

What's Working at Pilot Butte

In fifth grade at Pilot Butte, the math team has seen great success with the curriculum map and Professional Learning Communities (PLC). At the beginning of the year our team aligned the curriculum map to our resource, Eureka Math. We mapped out which lessons within Eureka explained the benchmarks and when we were going to be assessing each of those benchmarks throughout the year. In our PLC meetings, we continuously refer to the curriculum maps as we discuss common assessments and our progress thus far. We also ensure that questions on our common assessments match the benchmark standards. This work has not only allowed us to collaborate and truly understand our resources better, but to become better teachers who are prepared. As a math team, our student's average growth was 22 points from fall to winter on the WY-TOPP Assessment which we believe is a great achievement and in part due to our implementation of the curriculum map and a successful PLC.

~Information provided by Stephanie Yenger, 5th Grade Teacher, Pilot Butte



What's Working at Desert View

In July 2017, Desert View staff had the opportunity to participate in Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's Power Strategies for Effective Teaching. We were also participating in a book study on John Hattie's *Visible Learning for Literacy* to reflect on our current teaching practices and how we could change instruction to maximize student performance. As a staff, we committed to focusing on student self-reported grading, which is a high-impact strategy, yielding an effect size of 1.44 (Hattie, 2016). Since then, students have been active participants in the goal setting and learning process, taking ownership of their learning. During February parent/teacher conferences, many classes participated in student-led conferences, where students graded themselves in academic and behavior areas, identified their areas of strength, as well as areas for growth. After sharing these results with their homeroom teacher, students were expected to lead parent/teacher conferences, sharing these results with their families.

~Information provided by Erin Worthington, 2nd Grade, Desert View



What's Working in Music

4th Grade World Music Drumming

In conjunction with a Sweetwater BOCES and Sweetwater #1 Foundation grant Stagecoach was able to purchase a classroom set of world music drums. With these instruments, music literacy was taught akin to how students learn any foreign language and utilized a hands-on approach. Students enjoyed making music and became able to perform complex ensemble pieces. Through this constructivist approach, the students were also able to experience other cultures and those culture's musical heritage. These cultural experiences allowed students to make personal connections and they also helped spark the student interest and inquiry of other cultures.



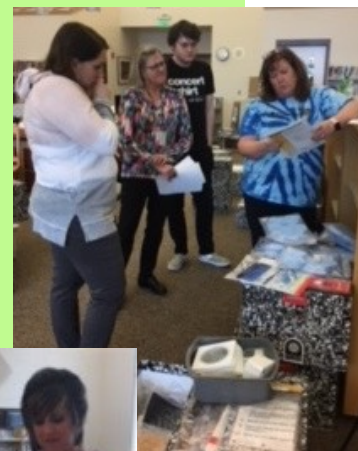
~Information provided by Weston Lamb, Music Teacher, Sage & Stagecoach Elementary



FOSS Science Kits Reorganized to Meet the Standards

Elementary teachers from the Science Subject Area Committee (SAC) met on February 27 to review the newly revised K-5 science curriculum maps and the FOSS science kit contents. The teachers noted that with the change in standards and revised maps, materials from the current FOSS kits may be more closely aligned to different grade levels. With this in mind teacher teams began the process of reorganizing the material into

“model” kits that can be replicated and shared with teachers in the fall. This approach supports the district in being fiscally responsible in reusing the current resources in a different manner to meet the needs of students and staff. Additional consumable resources will be purchased to supplement the hands-on approach to learning science. Training for teachers will also occur throughout the 2018-2019 academic year to support implementation.





Final Future City Project

The Gifted and Talented program wrapped up their Future City project in February. Students were required to work in groups to create a city to answer the question: *How can we make the world a better place?* Guest speakers working in various departments of the City of Rock Springs came to visit the class in November. Another guest spoke to the students about making a speech, which was part of the final project.

In February students presented their final projects which included a proposal, a 2D map of the

city zoning, a 3D map made of all recycled materials, a Sim City Simulation, and an essay.

The projects were judged by engineers from around Rock Springs.

Winners of the Gifted & Talented Future City Project. The name of their city is Quest City



Desert View 3rd graders participate in their engineering project.

Engineers Visit SCSD#1 Elementary Schools

National Engineers Week was February 18-24, 2018. UW College of Engineering and WY State Board of Professional Engineers bring professional engineers to 3rd grade classrooms across the state to lead a one-hour, hands-on activity.

SCSD#1 schools that participated in this program were: Desert View, Northpark, Overland, Sage, Stagecoach and Westridge.



3rd graders at Northpark work on their engineering project.

Social Studies Resource Adoption

Following the schedule laid out in the SCSD#1 Long-Range Plan, a resource adoption will take place next school year for Social Studies. This process began in January with the sharing of the timeline with administrators and a request for volunteers from the Social Studies Subject Area Committee (SAC) and Community Curriculum Council (CCC) to serve on the Social Studies Resource Adoption Committee (RAC).

This month in the survey for the March 9 professional development half-day, teachers will be asked to submit their suggestions for a Social Studies resource. This input along with other sources will be reviewed and narrowed to a list of resources the Social Studies RAC will research in August before school starts. The RAC will narrow the resource options down to 3-5 options to be displayed in schools and reviewed by teachers throughout the district. These options will be on display through most of October and a survey will be open to gather input on the resources. In November, RAC members will receive presentations from the publishers to help make a decision on their selection. The RAC's final recommendation will be given to the Board for review in December. The Board will potentially approve the recommendation in January. By March, the new resource should be in the district and ready to be inventoried by schools. This process allows new resources to be checked out to teachers in order to take part in professional development over the summer for the new resource.

Sweetwater County School District #1 Long-Range Plan															
SUBJECTS	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29
Math	C	VC	R/A	VA SSR		C	VC	R/A	VA						
Health/PE	C	VC	R/A	VA		SSR	C	VC	R/A	VA					
ELA		C	VC	R/A	VA			SSR	C	VC	R/A	VA			
Info Lit/Foreign Language		C	VC	R/A	VA			SSR	C	VC	R/A	VA			
Social Studies			C	VC	R/A	VA				SSR	C	VC	R/A	VA	
Fine and Performing Arts			C	VC	R/A	VA SSR		C	VC	R/A	VA				
Science		SSR		C	VC	R/A	VA		C	VC	R/A	VA SSR		C	VC
Career & Tech Education		SSR		C	VC	R/A	VA			SSR		C	VC	R/A	VA

C	Development of Curriculum Documents
VC	Implementation and Validation of the new Curriculum
R	Resource Selection
A	Development of Common Formative Assessments
VA	Implementation and Validation of the new Assessments
SSR	State Standard Review

SCSD#1
11.13.17

Title IVA: Student Support and Academic Enrichment

There are three major goals of the Title IVA program: providing students with a well-rounded education (STEM-reviewed in the February newsletter), supporting safe and healthy students, and supporting the effective use of technology. From this program, we received funding of \$92,698.60 to meet the goals of each of these areas. This month we are focusing on supporting safe and healthy students. For this goal, 20% of the total grant is available, which is \$18,539.80.

Supporting Safe and Healthy Students

Activities to support safe and healthy students: school-wide PBIS, student advocacy, building school and community relationships, and other safe and supportive services.

As an innovative district united with our community, we empower and inspire all students to academic excellence. SCSD#1 strives to create a safe learning environment to promote growth and lifelong learning.

1. Provide school activities aligned to Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and school advocacy programs.
2. Decrease negative behavior and increase positive behavior in our schools.
3. Promote safe and healthy behaviors: SCSD#1 uses the Standard Response Protocol-Provide resources, supplies, additional education to staff, and information to families (family engagement).

Funds from Title IVA will be utilized for supplemental support for PBIS. All activities/supplies through Title IVA are in addition to, and supplemental to, District funds/current activities for PBIS.

Spring Professional Development

A Foundational Skills Workshop was held February 24 with 40 staff members attending.

The March 9 half-day professional development day will continue training in English Language Arts (ReadyGEN & SpringBoard), the Career & Technical Education department will continue curriculum mapping, and all other district department meetings will be facilitated by District Department Chairs and Teacher Leaders.

Kagan's 2-Day Accelerating Achievement for Extended Day Program teachers will take place March 16 and 17.

Look for more professional development opportunities coming soon!

Summer Academy Registration Coming Soon!

Summer Academy registration will occur **March 19-29**. Sessions on PBIS, CANVAS, STEAM, technology and much more will be offered. Visit the SCSD#1 [Summer Academy webpage](#) (live on March 19) to view the brochure or watch for the District News email to announce the opening of registration.

7th Annual WyTECC Conference Tinkers & Thinkers

- ❖ Saturday, May 5, 2018
- ❖ 8:00am to 4:00pm
- ❖ WWCC Green River
- ❖ Participants could earn .5 PTSB credit
- ❖ District covers registration for first 50
- ❖ Early bird registration \$25 ends Feb 14
- ❖ Registration \$35 after Feb 14
- ❖ Register: <http://wytecc.wildapricot.org/events>

Young Author Competition Celebration

Results from the Young Author Celebration held in February are available on the district [Young Author webpage](#).

The Young Author County Celebration will take place at the Green River Lincoln Middle School Auditorium on March 14, 2018 at 6:30 pm. One 1st place award & two Honorable Mentions will be awarded in each category. Results and pictures will be posted on the SCSD#1 [Young Author webpage](#)

Supporting All Students

Thank you to all of teachers for supporting students during ACCESS Testing!

Supporting ALL Students During WYTOPP Testing

With statewide testing around the corner it is good to review the individual needs of your students and the accommodations allowed during the assessment. Take the time to become familiar with allowable accommodations. Students who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) may have specific accommodations for testing.

Exemption Requests

English Learners (EL) who have been enrolled in U.S. schools for less than one year may be exempt from the Reading portion of the WYTOPP Assessment. In order qualify for exemption the student must participate in the ACCESS for ELL's assessment and principals must complete the exemption requests and provide official enrollment documentation to support the student's EL status.

Teacher Resources for English Learners

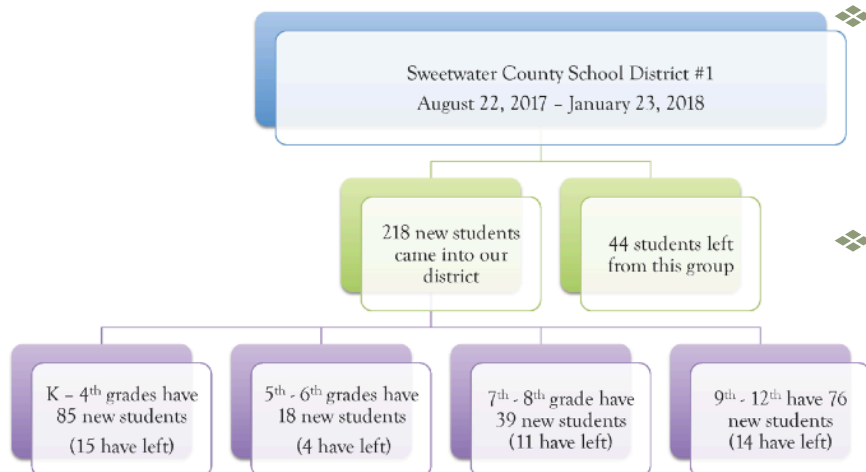
The [WIDA website](#) provides a number of great resources for teachers supporting English Learners. On the website, you can find the "can do descriptors" under Standards and Instruction, which provide teachers with examples of performance for each language acquisition level.

CANVAS—A New Learning Management System (LMS) Available to SCSD#1

Across the state of Wyoming, all students and teachers in grades K – 20 will have access to a consistent learning platform called CANVAS.

CANVAS will not take the place of any other software utilized in the district but will be an additional support piece for teachers and students. This year CANVAS is only available to teachers. If you are interested in opening up a CANVAS account, please submit a helpdesk ticket. Next year students will be enrolled into the LMS and be able to use CANVAS. Access to CANVAS will be simplified by providing a single-sign-on through Google. CANVAS will provide opportunities for all students to learn class material through an online platform. Look for upcoming CANVAS jumpstart trainings during Summer Academies and the 2018-2019 school year. For more information visit <http://www.sweetwater1.org/canvas>

Sweetwater County School District #1 Mobility



Every school in Sweetwater#1 is impacted by mobility.

- ❖ Mobility Rate is a measure of how many students are transferring in and out of a school. Higher mobility (more transfers) can be linked to lower achievement.
- ❖ Things like smaller class size and professional development for teachers may become irrelevant in schools with high mobility rates. This is because high mobility in schools hurts not only the students who leave, but also those who remain.
- ❖ Sarah D. Sparks stated in *Student Mobility: How It Affects Learning* that various studies have found student mobility-and particularly multiple moves-associated with a lower school engagement, poorer grades in reading (particularly in math), and a higher risk of dropping out of high school.
- ❖ For more information on student mobility please read the full article by Sarah D. Sparks in Education Week online: <https://www.edweek.org/ew/issues/student-mobility/>

Assessment Calendar is available for download

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								



ACCEPTABLE USE WY-TOPP MODULAR AND INTERIM ASSESSMENT ITEMS

ACCEPTABLE USE	NOT ACCEPTABLE USE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viewing items and/or responses on a teacher's device to review student responses, one-on-one, with individual students Printing items and/or responses to have individual students explain their approach and/or ask them questions on how they answered the item, then properly shredding the paper copies after the meeting Viewing items and/or responses on a teacher's device to share with other teachers during PLCs or with assessment/district test coordinators Printing items and/or responses to share with other teachers during PLCs, then properly shredding the paper copies after the meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projecting items and/or responses for teachers or students on a SmartBoard or whiteboard Printing items and/or responses to send home Printing and filing printed copies of items and/or responses in student files Printing items and/or responses to create handouts for classroom use Taking screenshots or pictures of items and/or responses Emailing images of items and/or responses Asking students to write down items and/or responses

WY-TOPP assessment items should not be used as instructional resources. Data from WY-TOPP interim and modular assessments may be used to inform instruction. However, test items should not be used in classroom instruction to verify skill mastery.

WY-TOPP Modular Assessments in SCSD #1

Many teachers are using the WY-TOPP modular assessments to inform instructional decisions in their classroom. The on-demand, fixed-form assessments are focused on a specific topic or skill in both Math and English Language Arts.

The best part of the assessments are the instantaneous results. Teachers can adjust instruction immediately or differentiate in their classroom as needed. Modular assessments can be used multiple times throughout the year. Some teachers are giving the assessment as a pre-test and then later as a post-test to monitor student growth. One school uses the assessments every *"Formative Friday."*

Another benefit of the WY-TOPP Modular Assessments is the students gain familiarity with the online platform and the style of questions asked on the assessment.

If you would like support administering the modular assessments or using the data, please contact the assessment office.

WDE has recently released a new [AIR Ways Reporting User Guide](#) and [WY-TOPP Interim & Modular Scoring FAQs](#).

[WY-TOPP Interim & Modular Scoring FAQs](#)

Summative WY-TOPP On the Horizon

With the Summative WY-TOPP beginning in mid-April, here are a couple of things to keep in mind:

- Please use the district headphones.** When students use their own headphones, they have a tendency to adjust the volume with the switch on the cord. This action launches iTunes which kicks the student out of the test.
- Pressing the F7, F8 and F9 buttons on the keyboard will also launch iTunes which will kick the student out of testing.

WY-ALT Online Independent Field Test (IFT)

All students that are designated to take the WY-ALT assessment will be participating in an online independent field test this spring. The online test gives the opportunity for students and staff to experience the online delivery system and provide data for future use. The assessment will be adaptive with 10 questions per subject area. The IFT will be administered April 9-27, 2018. Additional information from WDE will be coming later this month.

March						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Spring Academy Registration Opens PBIS Training	8 PBIS Training	9 Half - Day Professional Development PBIS Training- Counselors	10
11	12 Board Meeting Board Rm 7:00	13	14 Spring Academy Registration Closes 4pm	15	16 Kagan Academy Board Room 8:00 Check In 8:30-3:45	17 Kagan Academy Board Room 8:00 Check In 8:30-3:45
18	19 Summer Academy Registration Opens	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 CCC Board Room 4:00-6:00	28	29 Summer Academy Registration Closes 4pm	30 Spring Break	31

April						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Spring Break	3 Spring Break	4 Spring Break	5 Spring Break	6 Spring Break	7
8	9 Board Meeting Board Rm 7:00	10 ACT Testing	11 ACT Testing	12 ACT Testing	13	14 Kagan Academy Board Room 8:00 Check In 8:30-3:45
15	16 WY-TOPP Summative Window Opens	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					