



Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Newsletter



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

- Increase student and family awareness of educational and career opportunities in Sweetwater County and beyond.
- Instill and reinforce employability skills and a drive for learning.
- Recognize and celebrate student, family, community and employee contributions.



Sweetwater County School District #1 will nurture a positive learning climate and culture.

- Promote positive behaviors and relationships among students, staff, families and the community.
- Ensure schools are safe and secure.
- Proactively support physical, mental and emotional health.

CIA Newsletter

February/March 2021

Sweetwater County School District #1

In This Issue

- Spring and Summer Academies are Coming!
- Young Author Competition
- ELA/Writing WY-TOPP Scoring
- Sweetwater #1 ACCREDITATION
- ACT: Save the Date
- WY-TOPP Testing and CBV Students

Spring and Summer Academies are Coming!

Look for upcoming district emails for new Spring and Summer Academies being offered in Sweetwater #1. We will be using the results of the Summer Academy Survey administered on March 5 to determine the offerings this spring and summer. Registration forms coming out soon!

Young Author Competition

To spark the interest and stimulate youthful imagination, Sweetwater County School District #1 annually invites students to participate in the Annual Young Author Contest. "It's a great opportunity for children to get excited about writing and to earn recognition for participation," District Coordinator Tammy Macy said, "Everyone gets a certificate of participation, one way or another."

The contest is not required or part of any mandatory curriculum. Instead it is an opportunity for students – Kindergarten through 12th grade- to explore their writing skills and storytelling abilities. After submissions are received, they are judged based on age and category, as well as much more specific criteria including: ideas and content, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, presentation and mechanics. Every entry is double scored for validity. This year the district had over 500 entries. "It is a tight schedule to go through all of the submissions," Macy said, but she is happy to see students participating this year. "I really enjoy reading the entries, they can be a lot of fun,"

SCSD #1 Mission: To provide a quality education for all students.

SCSD #1 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.

Macy said. SCSD#1 recognizes all participants with a Certificate of Participation and a goodie bag. First, second and third place winners were recognized at the District Celebration on February 17th, 2021. First place winners received a trophy and journal and are then eligible to compete at the County level. Second place and third place winners were recognized with trophies.

All first place winners in Sweetwater County School District #1, Sweetwater County School District #2 and the Holy Spirit Catholic School are passed along to the county coordinators for further judging. At the County Level, there is one winner and two honorable mentions selected at each grade level in fiction, non-fiction and poetry. These winners were recognized with trophies at the county level celebration which was held March 3rd, 2021 in the Lincoln Middle School Auditorium, in Green River.

Pictures and winning stories from both celebrations can be viewed [here](#).

ELA/Writing WY-TOPP Scoring

The new vendor (Cambium) has a new "10-Day Policy" for grading the writing and joining the ELA and writing scores together— they guarantee that they will be reported within 10 days. This applies to 3rd, 5th, 7th and 9th grades, those who are assessed in writing. Also, they are pulling student samples for double scoring and calibration, so it is taking longer to report. Please check how the writing is being scored and take note.

Sweetwater #1 ACCREDITATION

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) will be conducting accreditation this year via Zoom for all of southwestern Wyoming this spring. The dates of the virtual visit to Sweetwater #1 are March 29 and 30. The accreditation team consists of WDE staff and Wyoming principals and teachers. They will be looking for things Sweetwater#1 needs to improve on and for celebrations of things we are doing well.

Teachers will be involved by attending a zoom sessions. The teachers will talk with the accreditation team about curriculum, assessment, PLC processes, students, interventions, enrichment and processes used in the district. Principals and district staff will be presenting information aligned to the standards which include, Governance and Leadership, Professional Capacity, Accountability and Improvement, Instructional Program, Culture and Climate, Services and Operations. To view the individual benchmarks, [please click here](#).



ACT: Save the Date

The ACT will be given to all juniors on Tuesday, April 20. The ACT measures English, Math, Reading, Science and Writing. The test will take approximately 4 hours with a short break. Look for more information from your school testing coordinator.



WY-TOPP Testing and CBV Students

WY-TOPP testing will begin April 13th and end May 7th. Testing will be the same format as in previous years. In preparation for the test, a list of allowable resources is available by [clicking here](#).

To WY-TOPP test the CBV students, the students will need to be on campus to participate in the assessments. Please foster relationships with your virtual students and plan with their families about scheduling upcoming standardized testing. In order to ensure safety and to accommodate parents/guardians who do not want their students to go to a school for testing, due to the pandemic, schools can report such circumstances with the Student Not Tested Form (SNTF). The principals will be complete the google form for submission to the district and WDE.

Additional testing resources are available on the [WY-TOPP Portal](#). Additional testing information will be coming out in the April newsletter. If you have questions or need testing support, please let the CIA office know.