



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

January 2017

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Train the Trainers

Teacher leaders and instructional coaches play a vital role in SCSD#1 by supporting instruction and furthering the implementation of the newly adopted math resources.

On Friday, December 16th, teacher leaders and coaches spent the day in a Train-the-Trainer professional development geared toward supporting teachers in utilizing Eureka Math modules.

Dean Ballard, a consultant with Consortium on Reaching Excellence in Education, Inc. (CORE MATH) provided an overview of math module components such as the topic overview, module assessments, exit tickets, online videos and fluency activities.



Teacher leaders and instructional coaches facilitated the review of these components during the district professional development time on December 22nd. This PD was meant to assist K-8 teachers in planning instructional lessons that will be implemented during second semester.

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.



DON'T FORGET to Validate!

In January SACs will meet to review validation survey feedback. Make sure your voice is heard and complete the survey for validating the curriculum maps for your subject area!

[Validation Surveys](#) are still accessible online.

Young Author Contest

***Young Author contest deadline is
February 3, 2017!***

1st--3rd place winners will be recognized on March 9, 2017 and 1st place entries will be submitted to the county competition. The county competition recognition will be March 29, 2017.

Entries should be submitted to Tammy Macy at the SCSD#1 Central Administration Building.

For more information visit the Young Author webpage or contact Tammy Macy at macyt@sw1.k12.wy.us or 389-2415.



Health Fair

The annual district sponsored health fair will take place at the end of this month. Farson-Eden School and Desert School in Wamsutter will both host the health fair on Monday, January 30th from 7am-9am in their school library.

Tuesday, January 31st - Friday, February 3rd the health fair will take place in Rock Springs at the SCSD#1 Central Administration Building Board Room from 6am-9am.

~Information provided by Kourtney Kalista, RSJH Nurse



STEM Training

According to the US Department of Education, "...success is driven not only by *what* you know, but by what you *can do* with what you know, it's more important than ever for our youth to be equipped with the knowledge and skills to solve tough problems, gather and evaluate evidence, and make sense of information. These are the types of skills that students learn by studying science, technology, engineering, and math—subjects collectively known as STEM."

A STEM training will be offered in an effort to support teachers with the enrichment component of the Extended Day program. January 5th and 6th from 8:00am-4:00pm, Dr. Carla Hester-Croft will lead this training in the CAB Boardroom for all K-12 Extended Day teachers. Dr. Hester-Croft is an Associate Professor of Information Technology at WWCC.



Powerful Lesson Planning

Last month two articles from the October 2016 edition of Educational Leadership, Powerful Lesson Planning, were highlighted. You can still access [The Promise of Collaboration](#) by Michelle Bauml and [The Icing on the Cake?](#) By Kristina J. Doubet and Jessica A. Hockett.

Two more articles that can be helpful when planning for the classroom are [Start With Higher-Order Thinking](#) by Susam M. Brookhart and [Starting Strong](#) by Ben Curran.

In the first article Susan Brookhart shares three strategies to infuse higher-order thinking skills into lesson plans:

- Open Questions,
- Thinking, Not Retelling
- Student Self-Assessment

Ben Curran digs into decision teachers need to make to plan the first 10-15 minutes of a lesson:

- "The What" and "The Why"
- Direct or Indirect?
- Three Simple Questions

Power up your lesson plans by reading these valuable articles!



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. These provide teachers with examples of performance for each language acquisition level.

Thank you for all that you do for our students!

~Information provided by Shannon Garrison, Federal Grants/Title III Coordinator



Upcoming ACCESS Testing

Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners (ACCESS for ELLs) is the assessment used to determine English proficiency. English Learners (EL) in kindergarten through 12th grade demonstrate their growth and progress toward English proficiency on the ACCESS test. The testing window opens on January 24th and ends on February 28th. All students who are identified as limited English proficient participate in the ACCESS test. This includes students who do not receive services due to refusal. The EL teachers at each school will develop a testing schedule to support completing the ACCESS test during the testing window.

~Information provided by Shannon Garrison, Federal Grants/Title III Coordinator



Grants

One of our goals this year is to increase communication regarding the opportunities that are made possible for our students through grant funding.

Check out updated grants information on the [Grants webpage](#). Check back frequently as the pages will continue to be updated with more info and pictures!

~Information provided by Shannon Garrison, Federal Grants/Title III Coordinator

Youth In Transition



Federal Education Law: Who are youth in transition (homeless)?

Students qualify for the protections conferred by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act if they **lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**. This includes students:

- ⇒ Living doubled-up with others due to economic hardship or loss of housing
- ⇒ Living in hotels, motels, campgrounds, or inadequate trailer homes
- ⇒ Living in emergency, transitional, or runaway shelters
- ⇒ Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, or public spaces not intended for human habitation
- ⇒ Abandoned in hospitals
- ⇒ Child or youth who meet the above guidelines and is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian

The McKinney-Vento Act: The Basics

The McKinney-Vento Act guarantees the following to children and youth experiencing homelessness:

- ⇒ The right to immediate enrollment in school, even if lacking paperwork normally required for enrollment
- ⇒ The right to attend school in the school of origin (if this is requested by the parent and is in the student's best interest) or in the school of residence
- ⇒ The right to receive transportation to the school of origin
- ⇒ The right to services comparable to those received by housed schoolmates
- ⇒ The right to attend school with children not experiencing homelessness i.e.: segregation based on a student's status as homeless is prohibited

Additional Information

- ⇒ If you know any students who you think may be homeless, please contact your direct supervisor.
- ⇒ Sweetwater County School District #1 Youth in Transition Policies-[IGBCA](#), [IGBCA-E](#), [IGBCA-E-2](#), and [IGBCA-R](#)
- ⇒ Local Parent Liaison-Nicole Bolton (307) 352-3400, boltonn@sw1.k12.wy.us
- ⇒ Local Parent Liaison Assistant-Rita Isaacson (307) 352-3400, isaacsonr@sw1.k12.wy.us

USDOE Counseling Grant--Pilot Butte

In December, classroom counseling lessons focused on anti-bullying by discussing what bullying is, types of bullying, why it is NOT acceptable and resources students have available to help them stop the bullying. Students are also learning the difference between a bullying situation and a conflict situation. The definition used at Pilot Butte for bullying comes from the counseling curriculum: ***"Bullying is when someone keeps being mean to someone else on purpose. The person it's happening to hasn't been able to make it stop. It is unfair and one-sided."*** The goal is to further students' understanding of bullying behavior and their responsibilities as bystanders to bullying. Witnessing or being involved in a bullying situation can cause a variety of uncomfortable emotions. It is important for students to pay attention to those emotions and see them as cues to take positive action rather than as reasons to avoid the situation or identify with the student doing the bullying. Pilot Butte counselors are focusing on ways students can be positive bystanders. Changing how bystanders react is one of the most powerful ways to reduce or stop bullying.



This year the Pilot Butte PBIS team opened the doors to its school store, "The Den." Students at Pilot Butte can earn Wildcat PAW tickets as rewards for meeting and exceeding the school wide behavior expectations of being Safe, Respectful and Responsible. Twice each month students are able to shop in The Den for candy and food items, backpacks, Pilot Butte shirts, pencils, erasers, books, etc. Counselors are very grateful to Pilot Butte, Blue Jeans for Students and PTSO for helping sponsor this endeavor!

Happy at Heart, an afterschool group currently has 52 students. Groups meet every Wednesday from 3:15pm – 4:30pm. The group is designed to help students better understand individuals who face various challenges as well as cope with situations when they arise in their own lives. Topics such as divorce, moving, loss of loved ones, illness, the elderly, and death are discussed. Pilot Butte is working with Hospice of Sweetwater County and Rock Springs High School Health Academy students to bring this opportunity to the students. Counselors are extremely appreciative for the financial support provided from Tesoro Logistics for Happy at Heart.

Counselors have also been working with students to "grow a culture of kindness" at Pilot Butte. To do this, kind deed boards were created where students can select a random kind deed to perform for someone at school, home or in the community. When they have completed the deed, they report it to the counselors and they get a leaf to add to the kindness tree located in the foyer of Pilot Butte. The goal is to have the tree completely full of leaves so that more branches have to be added throughout the year! Counselors want students to recognize the value of showing kindness to one another. In the famous words of Aesop, "No kind deed is ever wasted."





Gifted & Talented Program Testing Schedule

Winter 2017 Testing

- Test all 5th and 6th grade existing combo class students
- Students new to the district with advanced test scores or paperwork indicating they were in a GATE program
- 3rd-6th grade students with a 92% or higher on both reading and math fall MAP test
- 3rd-6th grade students that AMP team feels needs to retest (tested in the fall, but scores did not match expected results)

Testing will take place the second, third and fourth Fridays in January (at ESE).

Spring 2017 Testing

- Test all 3rd and 4th grade combo class students
- Students new to the district with advanced test scores or paperwork indicating they were in a GATE program
- 3rd-5th grade students with a 92% or higher on both reading and math fall MAP tests
- 2nd grade students with an 89% or higher on both reading and math spring MAP tests
- 3rd-5th grade students that AMP team feels needs to retest (tested in the winter, but the scores did not match the expected results)

Testing will take place the second week in May at school sites.

Fall 2017 Testing

- Students new to the district with advanced test scores or paperwork indicating they were in a GATE program
- 3rd-6th grade students that AMP team feels needs to retest (tested in the spring, but the scores did not match the expected results)

Testing will take place the second week of school in August at school sites.

~Information provided by Cristy Pelham, SCSD#1 Gifted and Talented Teacher

Current and upcoming testing events are highlighted.

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

January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Winter Break	3	4	5 STEM Training 8-4 Board Rm	6 STEM Training 8-4 Board Rm	7
8	9	10	11	12 Cost-Saving Task Force 5-8 Board Rm District Department Chair Meeting 4-6 PDC	13	14
15	16	17 Info/FL SAC 12:30-4 Board Rm Cost-Saving Task Force 5-8 Board Rm	18 ELA SAC 8-4 Board Rm	19 F/P Arts SAC 8-4 PDC Cost-Savings Public Forums 7am-8pm Board Rm	20 Community Curriculum Council 8-11:30 Board Rm	21
22	23	24 EL/ELA Resource Adoption Committee 8-4 Board Rm ACCESS for ELLs Window Opens	25 EL/ELA Resource Adoption Committee 8-4 Board Rm	26 Cost-Saving Task Force 5-8 Board Rm	27	28
29	30 Health Fair- Farson/Wamsutter 7am-9am School Library NAEP Window Opens	31 Health Fair –RS 6am-9am Board Rm Cost-Saving Task Force 5-8 PDC				

February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Health Fair –RS 6am- 9am Board Rm	2 Health Fair –RS 6am- 9am Board Rm Parent/Teacher Conferences Evening	3 Health Fair –RS 6am- 9am Board Rm Parent/Teacher Conferences Morning	4
5	6	7	8	9 District Department Chair Meeting 4-6 PDC	10	11
12	13	14	15 EL/ELA Resource Adoption Committee 8-4 Board Rm, PDC, Title I	16 EL/ELA Resource Adoption Committee 8-4 Board Rm, PDC, Title I	17 EL/ELA Resource Adoption Committee 8-4 Board Rm, PDC, Title I	18
19	20 President's Day No School	21 Social Studies SAC 8-4 Board Rm	22 Math & Health/PE Assessments SAC 8-4 Board Rm	23 Math & Health/PE Assessments SAC 8-4 Board Rm	24	25
26	27	28 EL/ELA Resource Adoption Committee 8-4 Board Rm ACCESS for ELLs Window Closes WY-ALT Window Opens				