

## Teaching and Learning Update November 2014

Curriculum / Materials Implementation – The last of both high school World Language (Spanish and German) as well as K-12 Mathematics supplies and instructional materials were delivered in the fall. Elementary teachers used the training they received in June from the publishers of Bridges (K-2) and My Math (3-5) to begin implementation of their new math programs. Secondary teachers opted to work in PLC teams to collaborate around their new math materials. A few adjustments have or will be made based upon needs assessments. For example, K-12 special education math needs continue to be investigated and materials provide to better meet the needs of this student population. My Math users decided to pilot IXL as a way to supplement math instruction both in class and at home. These grade 3,4,5 teachers also have a follow-up training in December focused on their specific implementation needs, including a question and answer session with a trainer as well as additional training in support of the on-line My Math component.

Professional Development – The October 10<sup>th</sup> in-service day was a district-wide event focused on providing teachers with learning in the areas they had identified. Many of the sessions focused on using data to inform instruction, looking at student work, integrating technology into the classroom, increasing student-to-student flow of information through collaborative groups, and removing barriers to learning. For the most part the feedback was quite positive, especially in sessions facilitated by La Center teachers and administrators. Both teachers and classified staff (that chose to attend) were treated to lunch and a keynote focused on poverty presented by our high school counselor, Timm DiStefano.

English as a Second Language (ELL) – After the completion of placement testing, the 2014-2015 ELL support schedule is up and running to assist our students district-wide that qualified for ELL services. Melissa Flatt is now supporting approximately 30 students in her work as our ELL para-professional.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) – Our first CTE advisory committee meeting was held on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. There were several new members that joined in the conversation and provided fresh perspectives. Among other suggestions was to work to increase opportunities for students to experience job shadows as well as internship. Efforts to articulate with Lower Community College have been renewed. Perkins funds will focus on updating instructional materials as well as continuing to provide shop equipment to support existing programs. Offers were made to help find grant funding for STEM related, community supported projects and competitions. In addition to business students having leadership opportunities through FBLA, new SLO has been added. LEOs is now available as an ASB club connected with technology classes that will create further service and leadership opportunities to our CTE students.

Highly Capable – The revitalization of our Highly Capable program continues to take shape. Efforts to fulfill the new state laws around meeting the needs of our gifted learners, is an ongoing process. The funding structure for the HiCap iGrant has changed and will require finding other funds to support activities and supplies that have traditionally paid for through this grant. Both Science Olympiad and Math is Cool competitions are underway or are already completed. These students (including HiCap) and their dedicated coaches enjoy learning science and math concepts together with others from the region.

Testing / Assessment – We have been closely following announcements from OSPI regarding the transition from current state testing practices to Smarter Balanced Assessments. The elementary will phase in on-line SBA testing over the next two years. It was determined that pencil and paper exams will best meet the needs of our younger students as they need further opportunities with using technology prior to testing on-line. Both middle school and high school students will be testing using adaptive, computer-based Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA) in both English/Language Arts and Mathematics. Science will continue to be tested at 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 8<sup>th</sup> grade and the Biology End of Course Assessment in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. The high school has created a tentative testing schedule that endeavors to avoid interrupting the school day as much as possible.