

## Teaching and Learning Update April 2015

### Curriculum / Materials Implementation –

Based upon a review of the last ten years of district instructional materials adoptions and comparison of Curriculum Adoption/Review Cycles, a recommendation has been made to re-evaluate our current seven year cycle. The goal will be to propose a revised Curriculum Review Cycle that is needs based and more responsive to identified instructional needs such as updated Washington State Standards. School Board expectations, such as Policy No. 2020 and associated Procedures, will be adhered to in the redesign process. Examples of expectations that will be part of a new proposed cycle would include ongoing annual reviews and inclusion of community members. It is recognized that, “The primary objective in selecting instructional materials is to implement, enrich and support the educational program of the schools. All instructional materials shall be selected in conformance with: applicable state and federal laws, and the stated goals and/or standards of the district.”

### Professional Development –

Professional development around instructional technology continues to be an area of focus. Teachers recommended by their principals met to inform the design of the April 24th and June learning events in order to tailor them to the unique needs of La Center staff. The approach is to leverage these PD days to best meet the technology learning needs of students via targeted training for their teachers. During the April Learning Day an *Integration Workshop: The Chromebook or iPad Classroom* (April 24<sup>th</sup>) will be facilitated by Kristina Wambold, certified Google Trainer. Please be looking for more details on this event in next month’s board report.

A third round of after school Tech Café sessions began this month. With the support of Stephanie Holmes participating teachers will collaboratively design lessons that integrate the use of technology into their classroom instruction. Stephanie will extend the learning of interested teachers through a coaching model including co-designing, co-teaching and co-debriefing of technology infused lesson(s).

During April many teacher leaders have taken advantage of the opportunity to propose their own professional development using the newly created Special Request for Clock Hours process. This form is now on the district website under Teaching & Learning. The following are diverse examples of ESD 112 approved clock hour earning teacher-initiated PD that will occur during the April 24<sup>th</sup> Learning Day: *Developing Meaningful, Obtainable, and Realistic Student Growth Goals; Challenge Course Best Practices; Selecting Materials to Support Student Success.*

### Highly Capable Program (HiCap) –

Through our efforts to update our identification process ten additional elementary students have been identified as Highly Capable. Based upon the committee's review criteria, including recently acquired CoGAT scores and teacher assessments/interviews, letters were sent home to parents of potential HiCap students. Newly identified students, along with previously identified, students will begin receiving services during the 2015-2016 school year, even as our program renewal continues.

This year's remaining Highly Capable iGrant funds will be used to provide designated teachers with training to assist them in planning for and implementing strategies to meet the differentiated needs of HiCap learners. While it can be a challenge to locate local teacher trainings, several are being looked at and teachers recruited for participation in events in May and/or June. Updating and refining the district Highly Capable Program will continue to be a focus during the 2015-2016 school year.

### Career and Technical Education (CTE) –

The following students earned the right to participate in the State FBLA Contest April 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>: Hannah McNeal, Sean Nolan, Wyatt Tetz, Anthony Liane, Kurt Wohlers, Kellan Sullivan, Zach Galster, Colin Obot, Dylan Seaman, Cole Seaman, Jackson Leslie, Andrea Lewis. Hannah McNeal placed 3rd at State FBLA. She qualified for Nationals in Chicago. She did awesome! John Lambert, posted "real time" La Center FBLA progress through a smartphone app:

Appstore (iPhone): <http://goo.gl/gLiqC>

Playstore

(Android): [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.app\\_lacenterfbla.layout](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.app_lacenterfbla.layout)

HTML5: <http://goo.gl/N8dAue> (online)

Rosie Leno, Manager of Career Pathways and External Outreach at Lower Columbia College, registered our first LCHS students to benefit from our new articulation agreements. Students that earn a "B" or better in *Automotive Technology* (Jim Neiman, instructor) and/or *Introduction to Business* (John Lambert, instructor) will earn 5 credits from Lower Columbia College at no charge and without loss of FTE funding.

After a visitation and presentation by automotive students and instructor, plans are moving forward to spend the 2014-2015 Perkins grant allocation on equipment to support the growth of this program. Students have led the way on researching, presenting and gathering bids for equipment (such as a pressure washer and car lift) to be used and /or installed in the shop area. In particular the car lift will allow student groups simultaneous, safe and clear access to view auto components as compared to jack stands and other methods. Not only will this purchase support instruction and our new articulation agreement with LCC, but the lift will allow more authentic, real-world application for more meaningful student learning. Community partners have offered to assist with installation of the car lift.

English as a Second Language (ELL) –

April brings the opening of the reconciliation window for WELPA tests administration completed last month. Proficiency scores will be used to inform whether students remain in the program or “test out”. For students remaining in the ELL program scores will help in the design of appropriate interventions. Smarter Balanced Testing will be in full swing beginning the end of April, therefore all ELL designated supports and accommodations were entered into the new TIDE system in advance to meet the needs of individual learners during SBA testing.

Testing / Assessment –

Designated teachers and classified staff have received training and support during April on how to administer on-line Summative Tests in English Language Arts and/or Mathematics using the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) on the Washington Comprehensive Assessment Program (WCAP). On-line testing will occur in mass during the last week in April and will continue through the end of May. While everyone involved within the district have worked diligently to prepare for these exams, it will no doubt be a challenging month for both test administrators and students alike. Stay tuned in May to hear what we have learned from our first year of SBA.