

Teaching and Learning Update February 2015

Curriculum / Materials Implementation -

Teachers of mathematics and World Language continue to implement instructional materials purchased during the 2013-2014 school year. They are collecting information on what is working and identifying areas of concern that may require further monitoring and adjusting.

We are in process of reviewing the Curriculum Adoption Cycle for our district by first going back over which curricular areas have purchased materials between school years 2005-2006 and 2013-2015. This information will help inform areas that may have been overlooked and/or validate our current cycle. By going through this process the hope is to inform both current year needs as well as future curriculum needs.

Professional Development -

Last month's report discussed professional development around instructional technology. By way of an update it is important to mention that principals have recommended teachers to be invited as advisors for development of ten scheduled technology professional learning days. As a group we believe these teachers will be able to inform the design of these important training events to tailor them to the unique needs of La Center staff. The goal is to leverage these PD days to best meet the technology learning needs of students via targeted training for their teachers. In the meantime another round of after school Tech Café sessions led by Stephanie Holmes have begun. These events have been well attended by teachers in diverse curricular areas and are now focused on assisting the development of lesson plans initiated by individual or pairs of teachers.

During February a group of elementary staff attended *Plain Talk about Reading and Learning* held in New Orleans. This conference was organized by the Center for Development and Learning. The unique and critical nature of this expert training in literacy justified the significant investment via LAP funds. These teachers will continue to share their expertise in literacy with their colleagues with an eye toward improving literacy learning for students, especially in early grades.

In my role as District Assessment Coordinator I facilitated middle school and high school teacher training for English Language Arts and mathematics instructors. As proctors they will need to be able to provide on-line access to their students. During the roll out of this new assessment system, Washington's Comprehensive Assessment Program (WCAP), teachers will need significant, ongoing, focused support. February's training targeted initial use of the Test Information Distribution Engine or TIDE. This secure, password protected portal allows test administrators to proctor both interim Smarter Balanced online assessments as well as proctor the state required summative Smarter Balanced Assessment in the Spring.

English as a Second Language (ELL) –

During February students qualifying for English Language Support performed annual WELPA assessments. These required assessments will be completed and submitted prior to closing of the state WELPA testing window in early March.

Highly Capable Program (HiCap) –

This month the elementary students recommended to the Highly Capable Program were tested by Colleen Wing and Megan Bright. Once these professionally scored CoGAT assessments are returned they will be reviewed per district policy to determine if these students qualify for services. Current HiCap elementary level students are designing their own local field trips and some have participated in both Science Olympiad as well as Math Is Cool.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) –

On February 25th the Career and Technical Education Advisory will meet. During this meeting LEOs members will share the opening of the high school's Wildcat Care Closet. Additionally the agenda will include the proposed use of Perkins funds to improve facilitates for students of Automotive Technology, an FBLA competition update as well as progress toward articulation with Lower Columbia College.

Listed below are the results for La Center FBLA participants that placed and qualified for the state conference in Spokane April 15th to 17th:

Business calculations. Kurt Wohlers 5th
Business law. Kurt Wohlers. 2nd
Intro to Bus. Colin Obot. 4th
Business ethics. 4th. Kellan Sullivan/Kurt Wohlers
Public Speaking I. 2nd. Cole Seaman
Public Speaking I. 3rd. Dylan Seaman
Sales Presentation. 4th. Andrea Lewis
Entrepreneurship. 2nd. Wyatt Tetz. Anthony Liane. Sean Nolan
Client Services. 1st. Hannah McNeal
Sports & Entertainment Marketing. 5th. Zach Galster. Colin Obot. Jackson Leslie
Sports & Entertainment Marketing. 2nd. Kellan Sullivan. Wyatt Tetz.
Impromptu Speaking. 4th Sean Nolan
Kellan Sullivan. Public Speaking II, Top 5...place not yet determined.

These young people work diligently to prepare for these competitions. They make us all proud.

Testing / Assessment -

Much of the testing and assessment news has been shared in previous sections, however there are a few other highlights.

End of Course (EOC) make-ups for Math and Biology were administered to students that require them as part of their graduation requirement. Only those that have not yet met standard were assessed. A special message of gratitude goes to Aften Pankiewicz-Waldram for her exceptional work coordinating and ensuring these two test dates went off without a glitch.

Second semester Kristy Podelnyk, new teacher of biology at LCHS, began teaching our first Biology Collection of Evidence (COE) course. These students will prepare and submit the Biology COE online prior to the end of the school year as an alternative way to meet the state high school science graduation requirement.