

Teaching and Learning Update June 2015

Curriculum / Materials Implementation –

Ground work has been laid to begin the work of updating Literacy and Language Arts materials K-12 during the 2015-2016 school year. Teacher groups at several elementary grade levels have met to identify gaps in our current adopted materials in view of the new Washington State English Language Arts Learning Standards. Additionally, this elementary literacy group has recommended a set of professional development / pilot materials authored by Lucy Calkins for grades K-5. Materials are being secured through the building and C&I has contacted a knowledgeable trainer willing to assist grade level representatives in the use of these materials.

In an effort to provide curriculum materials to our new-to-LCSD staff a blanket, one-time adoption of materials used with our students for years via ESD112 Special Education Consortium is being requested from the school board. Any future materials and/or pilots will follow all Processes and Procedures set by the school board.

A multi-year strategic science plan is underway in an effort to be ready for full implementation of Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) by 2018. This is the earliest that an NGSS National Assessment is expected to be ready for administration.

Professional Development –

June 22nd-June 26th are the dates for the Immersion Institute: Google APPs for Educators right here in La Center. The participants list ranges from 22-30 teachers daily. This event is exclusive to the La Center School District and will be facilitated by a certified Google trainer from ESD112 and funded by the TPEP iGrant. This is expected to be an engaging event in which teachers will be able to apply all their learning directly to their own classroom. Four follow-up dates for model teaching and push-in coaching will occur in September and October, so stay tuned to learn all the creative ways students are benefiting from this summer professional learning opportunity.

Highly Capable Program (HiCap) –

Three elementary teachers will be attending the *Gifted Education Institute: Personalizing Learning through Cluster Grouping & Differentiation Strategies* on Whitworth's campus June 22-24, 2015. These teacher leaders will play an integral role in updating and refining the district Highly Capable Program during the 2015-2016 school year.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) –

For the first time students at LCHS were able to receive free Lower Columbia College credit for articulated business and shop classes. This was made possible by the diligence and persistence of our CTE teachers, John Lambert and Jim Neiman.

Due to a significant increases in high school FTE, Jim Neiman's classroom will be vacated in order to make room for a health teacher. During a time of high enrollment in all the shop classes, this space will now act as both classroom and lab space. In an effort to provide for additional supervision, safety and student learning a new, paid position has been created for a Shop Aid. Thank you to Carol Patton and Mark Mansell for their support.

English as a Second Language (ELL) –

Additional support materials, such as learning games, have been purchased for use next year. Also, Chromebook Apps have been identified and a process is being looked at for adding these learning Apps to the ELL Chromebooks for next year. While the location of the elementary ELL space will be relocated, the quality service offered by Melissa Flatt, ELL Paraprofessional, will continue. Your efforts and dedication are appreciated, Melissa.

Testing / Assessment –

The 2015-2016 school year has been a year of learning across the state in regards to the new Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) for grade 3-8 and 10-11. Students in these grades sat for both English Language Arts and Mathematics tests. Results are beginning to trickle in to the On-line Reporting System (ORS). Preliminary results for middle school English Language Arts are looking very promising. By early September, if not before, OSPI Assessment will have individual student SBA score reports ready for distribution to parents and guardians. Special thanks are in order for all Test Administrators (proctors), teachers and Building Assessment staff. This was a challenging year with a new system and everyone rose to the occasion.