

Teaching and Learning Update June/July 2016

Curriculum / Instructional Materials –

Secondary School ELA: The instructional materials adoption process for K-12 English/Language Arts/Literacy continued during June and July. Based upon surveys and small group meetings, all teachers of middle school and high school English Language Arts have discussed next steps toward adoption of ELA materials in 2016. The middle school team has decided not to pursue a new comprehensive set of instructional materials. Instead they plan to continue to look for supplemental writing instruction support as well as updating the novel selections. Additionally, middle school is requesting reading (and mathematics) intervention materials (*i-Ready/Ready*).

Two high school teachers will be piloting two different instructional materials, *Collections and Common Core Literature*, to freshman and sophomore students during the next school year. They will be collecting data and observations in order to inform an adoption recommendation during the 2016-2017 school year. The entire high school team met this summer in order to identify needs and updates for novel selection as well. Please stay tuned.

Elementary ELA: The K-5 adoption committee representatives have continued to work diligently with their grade-level colleagues to carefully consider sample copies of instructional materials from six different vendors. Even after the close of the school year, about fifteen participants spent a day digging deeper into the “final” two materials. The morning was spent with representatives from *Wonders* and the afternoon with *ReadyGen*. Participants included one or more teachers K-5 and ACE, parents of current and past elementary students, administrators and our teacher librarian. The focus of these follow-up presentations included, materials-based evidence, lesson and unit planning, on-line resources and assessments. Everyone was encouraged to ask their “burning questions” and to be a learner. During a grade-level representative follow-up committee meeting, the following plan was developed:

Proposal for K-5 ELA/Literacy Adoption 2016-2017

Grade	Instructional Materials
K	Team designed curriculum based primarily upon the following resources: Lucy Calkins http://www.heinemann.com/unitsofstudy/reading/ Phonemic Awareness – Revised English Kindergarten Curriculum by Michael Heggerty http://www.literacyresourcesinc.com/phonemic-awareness-revised-english-kindergarten-curriculum/?F Keyword=phonemic%20awareness * NOTE – above materials will be available for SB review at the July 25 th meeting)
1	Adoption recommendation to School Board in July 2016:
2	Wonders / Wonder Works
3	mheducation.com

4	Two teachers per grade-level pilot materials:
5	Ready Gen
6	www.redefiningliteracy.com
6	Updating team designed curriculum and novel selections as well as:
7	Write on Course 20-20 and All Write (supplement being considered)
8	i-Ready / Ready Reading intervention (adoption recommendation in July)
9	Two teachers per grade-level pilot materials:
10	Collections from Houghton-Mifflin- Harcourt Common Core Literature from Pearson
11	Updating teacher designed curriculum and novel selections for electives
12	

Reading Intervention: Many conversations this year have led to the identification of reading intervention materials for K-5, 6-8 and Special Education students in K-8. What is clear is the need for a significant investment in up-to-date, quality, technology-based reading intervention that includes both diagnostics and instruction. At this time, we are still using cassette tapes for assisting elementary students in literacy development. The research is clear that if students are not fluent readers by the end of third grade, then they will struggle to catch up the remainder of their school career and beyond.

If the recommendation for *Wonders* along with the companion reading intervention materials, *Wonder Works*, is accepted, then ACE staff will be assisting with K-4 literacy by pulling small groups from class as well as going in to class to work with struggling students. In LAP Summer School, identified students are working on a 6-week online program known as *Imagine Learning*. The hope is that this new approach to reading intervention will allow students to work online 20 minutes per day with in-person weekly monitoring and support.

Once adopted, new reading and mathematics intervention materials will be available to middle school students for the first time. *i-Ready* (largely online) and *Ready* (companion written materials) will be used as appropriate based upon adaptive diagnostic assessments. All sixth graders will participate in diagnostic *i-Ready* assessments with scores being compared to fifth grade classroom-based assessments, SBA and Dibbles. This will help students to be appropriately placed into seventh or eighth grade reading and/or math assist classes with the hopes of closing the gap between them and their grade-level peers.

Professional Development –

Summer Tech Institute is back by popular demand. Last June Kristina Wambold, ESD 112 Google-certified trainer, ran a week-long institute that was well attended and received. Based upon teacher survey, they preferred three August dates that will be facilitated by our very own, Stephanie Holmes. Topics of interest to participants will include: Creating Data Trackers, Google Sites, Setting Up Your Digital Classroom and Open Work Sessions similar to Tech Café. Expect an update on an upcoming board report.

Highly Capable Program (HiCap) –

More PD: Eleven teachers (ten elementary and one middle school) attended the three day “HiCap” training in June. This is the same summer conference that three of their colleagues attended last June at Whitworth University in Spokane. Last year’s focus on differentiation and the “cluster model” has informed and inspired significant adjustments to how students are assigned to teachers. This year’s focus is on *Personalizing Learning: Making Curriculum More Responsive to Advanced Learners’ Needs*. Session will assist us with identifying and developing strengths and interests of students, using cluster grouping and designing high-quality differentiation in the content areas to promote continuous growth in our students. Please be looking for a report on their learning once school resumes.

Updating Procedure: Please refer to the separate memo for an update to proposed changes to the district’s Highly Capable Program.

K-12 Library–

Library Face-lift: The library has been reorganized or “flipped.” When you walk in to the K-8 library, the middle school side is to the north and the elementary side is now towards the south. This will encourage more middle school students to enter the library and provide a more private/intimate space for elementary library time away from the traffic and disruptions of the main door. Additionally, new furniture has been ordered for the middle school side of the library to increase and accommodate the increase in usage during lunch.

Stephanie Holmes, Kim Hollopeter and Lynn Cooke piloted one lesson on June 3rd to each grade level in the middle school. At the staff meeting on June 15th, it was brought up as a positive for the building and the teachers are excited to begin the Common Sense Media curriculum next year.

Lynn will be finishing her library endorsement this summer at the University of Washington and will take the West-E after completing the course work. Congratulations, Lynn!

Family and Community Resource Center (FCRC) –

Backpack Program: While the FCRC is closed for the summer, Aften continues to monitor phone and email in case a need arises. Additionally, she will spend time preparing for the upcoming Backpack Program on Saturday, August 13th. Volunteers will assist in both filling and distributing these free backpacks filled with all the school supplies a child will need to begin the new school year. The first district-wide school supply drive, along with partner donations have provided thousands of items in order to make this event possible. A huge thank you goes out to the La Center Lions Club. Their 5K Fun Run & Walk produced a \$1,500 donation in support of the Backpack Program. Thank you all so very much for your support!

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Neiman
Director of Teaching & Learning
La Center School District

Revised July 15, 2016