Teaching and Learning Update
November 2010

Volunteers- I have completed my last official volunteer training class unless a special need arises. Thanks to Winnie and Joyce at the elementary and Julie C in my office we now have a spreadsheet of 184 trained volunteers with email addresses and phone numbers. I will continue the process of facilitating the matching of staff and classroom needs with willing volunteers.

Thursday, October 21st I held my first math tutor volunteer training in the K-8 Library. I had 15 parent/community members show up to get either specific training to prepare them to tutor in a classroom or to gain skills to help them at home with their own student. From that first training we have so far gained 4 tutors who are working with Mr. Holland in our 6th grade math classrooms. We have identified his room and this grade level as the best place to begin our focused attention. This is last years' 5th grade group that struggled on the MSP test and we want to assure that they do not miss important skills.

Substitutes- The second substitute seminar was Monday October 25th. We continued our work around mastering skills of creating or maintaining learning environments that meet the district's learning model. Substitutes created their own evaluation framework for teachers to evaluate the substitutes work in their classroom, in their absence. The substitutes also created a list of evidences that they felt were important to consider in the development of an evaluation tool to give feedback to teachers on the lesson plans they were left, along with the successes and challenges that they encountered during the day. Both of these lists and frameworks have been forwarded to the individual building councils for their input and review. This will be followed by the actual implementation of those evaluations for daily use.

Math- We have completed the negotiations to buy software that will allow us to connect students to "Success Maker" (the program we currently use in LAP math) via the Internet, at home, outside of normal school hours. The server is on order and we hope to have this up and running very soon. We believe this program will be highly effective and beneficial to all of our students. As you may already know and/or will hear during our board presentation Tuesday evening, our AYP struggles are in special education and low income. This program has already shown great results in math club and since it can be individualized, we believe it will have like results for both special needs and highly capable students. Our next big challenge will be to first identify which groups or individual students to focus this opportunity with first, and then to facilitate the training and

implementation. We will also be scheduling regular after school use of our two labs on the K-8 campus for those students who do not have access from home.

Lab Classroom Project- Our LCP "oversight and sharing" team just completed an online survey concerning professional development in our district. 54 teachers voluntarily took the time to take the survey. This is very positive, encouraging, and positions professional development in this district as the most important focus of our teachers and leadership group. I will let that group share the specific results with you later after they have been more closely evaluated. In addition we have had a number of different LCP team meetings over the last month and we are, what I would call, in the meat of this process or learning opportunity.

Community/parent linkage- Next up is the "internet safety" parent informational night scheduled for November 18th from 6:30-8:00 pm in the middle school choir room. During this presentation I will be conducting a needs/wants survey of the attendees so that I can focus in on what other topics and learning opportunities our parent/community group would like to have offered. I will also be taping the presentation so that those who are unable to attend will be able to view it later (thanks, Wendy!)

Our second CTE (formally known as vocational ed.) parent advisory meeting is Wednesday night the 17th. CTE staff has written and submitted "mini-grant" applications to the parent advisory group for expenditure of Perkins grant funds. The advisory group with oversight from myself will award the Perkins grant dollars based on those grant applications. The goal is still to have the money awarded by our December meeting so that we can get those dollars working for our students ASAP. The other big goal for the year continues to be to create better pathways for students in CTE that will lead to either a certification or training opportunities post LCHS. Some of you saw the draft "mock-up" of a tri-fold that we have done for Mr. Pust's area at the workshop. We will be developing these for all CTE areas over the next couple of months.

Curriculum adoption- You will see a list of 4 books and one financial program on the board agenda for approval. All 5 of these items were approved this week during this year's first IMC (instructional materials committee) meeting. The four books are part of the social studies adoption that we are finalizing this year. All four are being used as supplemental materials. The financial program material will be used in Mrs. Mosby's independent living class.

Dave.