Teaching and Learning Update December 2012

Wow, short month but still some really awesome things going on!

Curriculum/ Materials Adoption- We had our first review meeting for instructional materials in math this last week. It was a very positive meeting designed to create a process, establish our learning goals along with our team norms of collaboration for completing the work. The group of math professionals that have raised their hand to do this work is quite impressive and I'm really excited to work with them during this process. In addition to the professional staff I have 6 parents and 5 students, (2 middle and 3 high school), that are lending their voices and giving their input! The next step will be to begin meetings in January in building or grade band groups to evaluate our current instructional materials against the new state common core standards.

Professional Development- The ELF's (electronic learning facilitators, thank you Cris) have been leading technology-learning opportunities each Tuesday and Thursday in December. These classes revolve around using specific applications on iPads for use in their rooms. I have been working with two of our high school students, Ian and Sean Williams to begin offering technology classes of this type after school beginning in January. These classes will be open to anyone who wants to attend, teachers, students, parents etc.

ELL- Our numbers crept up again last month!

Career and Technical Education (CTE)- Last month I noted that we were working in this area currently to tie our curriculum in our two new classes, Bio-diesel and Power/Energy, to an established state framework so that on-going CTE funding can be received for these two classes. I'm happy to note that Mr. Neiman has gotten these curricular frameworks completed so that we can now complete our application to OSPI.

Title I/LAP- I spent last Friday morning with our title and LAP crew at their regular meeting with Mrs. Wing so that I might gain a more thorough mastery of the current program and possibilities for improvement. I must say that I'm continually impressed by the hard work and caring for student success that this group exhibits. Mr. Lincoln and I continue to work together to make changes in this area to improve our impact on student learning.

Highly Capable- Our elementary Science Olympics Team celebrated their recent success at this year's competition by participating in a two hour long learning opportunity provided by OMSI in our K-8 library last week. At the conclusion of the OMSI interactive learning lab, the students received certificates for their participation and a cupcake!

At the same time, over the last month Mr. Holland has been working with 6th grade students after school in a new opportunity called "Math is Cool". He has 16 students representing 4 teams of 4 students that will compete in a "Math is Cool" competition after the first of the year. This last week we started the same opportunity for 4th and 5th grade students as well. We already have 32 students in these two grades participating requiring us to find some more help for Mr. Holland! A nice problem to have!

Testing/Assessment-We are preparing for the EOC make-ups in January when we return. This round will be for students who did not meet standard on last spring's testing. Luckily this is a very small number for us!

Thanks, Dave.