Teaching and Learning Update March 2012

Testing/Assessment- High School HSPE (*High School Proficiency Exam*) testing in reading and writing just finished and the boxes are on there way back to be scored. I can't guarantee there is a connection to improved scores but this is one of the best years I can remember for students taking extra time and effort on these tests. I was very impressed with their demeanor toward taking the tests as well as the apparent hard work completing them that I observed. I'm sure this apparent improved focus and work ethic is a testament to our staff's preparation of our students for this test. Good job everyone!

Next up for assessment will be the 8th grade annual technology survey and staff proficiency self-assessments. The 8th grade survey is done in our computer lab and takes about 15-20 minutes to complete. We'll do this over a weeks period of time and the results will give us some insight into our students skill level, preparation and perceived abilities.

The staff assessments fall into two categories, classroom teachers and other specific categories like administrators and librarians. The classroom teacher surveys incorporate questions that both determine their personal technology proficiency as well as their level of technology integration in their classroom.

I would invite the board to go to this website:

http://www.edtech.wednet.edu/pilot/accounts/register3.cfm

You may create a log-in and complete the "Technology Proficiency Self-Assessment" on this page: http://www.edtech.wednet.edu/PILOT/survey/survey.cfm?survey=13 when you are registering select "other" on both school and position.

If all or most of you complete this I will be able to share with all of you, the group results. I will in the future also share both the teacher and student data when it is completed. Any questions or problems just call or email me!

Curriculum/ Materials Adoption- We just had our second full meeting of the literacy materials adoption committee. The group has decided to, instead of adopting and purchasing new materials, to use our resources to collect, evaluate, tie to state standards and create usage maps for our current writing materials. This will require a fair amount of work over the summer and some of next year by a number of our own professionals to complete this work. That said the results will be highly valuable and be a significant savings of resources over a new adoption.

We are currently waiting on the delivery of the next set of Saxon Math support materials for grades 2-5. Having reviewed the 1st grade sample, we are hopeful that the next set of grade level materials will be aligned just as closely as the 1st grade materials. This will allow us to continue moving forward toward including these as a supplement especially for algorithmic mastery and home practice and review.

Professional Development- We formed a new group of teachers for "Old Dog IV" which we will be running this spring. This group will be working on intentional construction of lessons which create quadrant 1 learning environments that enhance the opportunity for students to master core competencies which in turn gives those same students the tools to become confident, independent life-long learners.

We have also formed a large team of K-12 teachers to work together to develop a model evaluation for our district that meets the requirements of the new Teacher-Principal-Evaluation-Pilot (TPEP). We are hopeful that a number of these same members will volunteer to pilot this evaluation next fall.

Highly Capable- I am currently reviewing our remaining balance of highly capable funds with an eye toward developing a "family math night" or "family math fun" or……? for both our highly capable students but also for anyone else interested.

CTE (career and technical education)- High school scheduling is currently in progress so we should have some data on class demands very soon. As soon as we have that data I will be sharing with you which classes and pathways we'll be supporting in CTE next year.

ELL- Nothing new.

Grants- We are in the midst of responding to our state Consolidate Program Review (CPR) results that we just received. Good news is that there doesn't appear to be anything of great concern but the bad news revolves around the amount of staff time necessary to respond to the hoop jumps and circles we're required to run.

Library- Nothing new to report.

Dave.