Teaching and Learning Update April 2012

Testing/Assessment- Next up the Measure of Student Progress for grades 3-8. We are expanding our on-line testing this year to include both 6th and 7th grade reading. The process for preparing the lab every year for this testing is always a challenge and at the same time an opportunity to review each computer station and all of its functionality. The technology department has been "Johnny on the spot" with all this work and preparation and we're ready to go.

All of the testing in the other subjects and grade levels will begin the first week of May. As I'm sure you are aware this is a whole team effort at both the elementary and middle school with everyone pitching in and I'm always pleased by the amount of selfless flexibility that is demonstrated by our entire staff.

Since the last board report, we completed both our 8th grade and staff technology surveys. Here are the results for the 8th grade:

1. Technology Literacy of 8th Grade Students (view Tiers of Technology Literacy Indicators)

Out of the total number of 8th grade students in your school, report the number in each category:

38	**a. Tier 1 (Personal use and communication):**
39	**b. Tier 2 (Access, collect, manage, integrate, and evaluate and information):**
24	**c. Tier 3 (Solve problems and create solutions):**

What this means in short is that we have 38% of our 8th graders who do not personally feel comfortable using technology in a manner that would be consistent with a high cognitive demand in our learning model. Obviously this is an area that we would like to improve upon across all grade levels.

Curriculum/ Materials Adoption- Still in a holding pattern on the two initiatives in this area. Concerning the 2nd -5th grade math home materials, I'm waiting for grade level teams to finish meeting and to commit to the use of the Saxon materials we previously identified. Writing materials will be in a pause mode until we can form teams for summer review of the currently adopted materials.

Professional Development- I just completed the 2012 summer professional development survey with staff to determine needs. Looks like I will be offering two different book studies, "Making Thinking Visible" by Ron Ritchhart et. al. and "Teach Like a Champion" by Doug Lemov this summer. In addition I will be offering another iPad for educators class and a number of other technology classes around the iPad and various google products.

ELL- Nothing new.

Grants- We continue to be in the midst of responding to our state Consolidate Program Review (CPR) results. As I stated last month, the 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. This has consumed most of my flex time over the last month but should be wrapping up this next week.

Library- Nothing new to report.

Dave.