Teaching and Learning Update September 2013

Curriculum/ Materials Adoption- The math adoption committees will be meeting during the first RSLSA in October, Wednesday the 2nd. The primary goal will be to finalize the adoption materials rubric and to set dates for staff to review submitted materials.

In a related development, we've contracted with iXL, an online math curriculum provider to provide web access to their program for grades 3 through 5. We used this program for summer school with our 4th and 5th grade students. We had great reviews from students, parents and staff. This program will be used to differentiate instruction in the classroom, extend the time that students can learn math outside of the normal school day and allow teachers to gather data on a large number of students that will help direct their lessons in class as well.

In addition to the iXL program a number of teachers have been using Kahn Academy in the same manner for the same purposes. It remains to be seen how these two programs may fit into our math materials adoption in the pursuit of meeting the common core standards in math.

Professional Development- We will be meeting this week with the Mark Church Cadre to finalize our Oct. 11th activities. We have a group of elementary teachers who have signed up for a series of training dates at the ESD around serving highly capable students in the regular education classroom. Improving our highly capable program offerings and activities has been a goal of mine for a while. This should really help those teachers that have highly capable students concentrated in their classrooms.

ELL- We are in the process of finalizing our staffing for this program now that our testing and identification processes are complete. Our student enrollment in this program has dropped down to 23 (from about 27 last year) at the beginning of this year and the number of students in the upper grades has increased. This will require a number of changes to our scheduling to service these students appropriately.

Career and Technical Education (CTE)- I would like to thank long time community member Mike Hord who in the process of shutting down his personal woodworking shop, sold us his entire inventory of hardwood at a bargain basement price to help our CTE program.

Title I/LAP- I will have a detailed presentation for you during the linkage this month concerning both of these programs and our ideas for improvement during this year.

Highly Capable- Below is an itemized list of the areas we've identified for improvement, expansion or continuation in the highly capable program. I don't usually bore you with the details of a plan like this but this is the first year that board approval is being required by OSPI for this grant. With that in mind I wanted you to be informed as to how we have in general, designated the funds for use. I'd be happy to expand on any of these items if you'd like.

Initiatives	Budget
Math is Cool - staffing and fees	$1,200.00
Science Olympiad- staffing and fees	$2,100.00

Galileo Club (Chess club + other activities)	$500.00
Robotics class support	$1,000.00
Increasing number of iPads in the HC classrooms	$1,500.00
PD for Certs. (ESD classes)	$1,500.00
Rosetta Licenses for students x 12	$3,000.00
Chrome books for students x 12	$4,000.00
Art supplies and staffing for FCRC classes	$1,200.00
	$16,000.00

Testing/Assessment- SAT scores are in! Even though we haven't received the "school report" from the College Board, I used my nimble fingers to find our district percentages based on the individual student report. Last year we had an all time record high of 69 students take the SAT. This is primarily due to the hard work of Timm DeStefano and Kristin Krem who have tirelessly promoted this and the ACT to our students.

	LC 2012	LC 2013	2012 US averages
Reading	522	528.77	496
Writing	491	520.43	488
Math	513	520.58	514

Two significant points, first is that our numbers rose across the board on all three tests even though our number of students testing rose dramatically. Secondly this is the highest SAT math average I can ever remember.

Home School Academy- Our enrollment is up to 13 students with 2 more in process!

Dave.