

Middle School Principal Board Report: January 25, 2010

Teaching for Learning:

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

The 6th and 7th grade science teachers are implementing a new curriculum. They are utilizing hands on science kits which are extremely effective. However, the kits are on loan with the intent to purchase. We will have to include this expense in our future budget process.

The reinstatement of Art will result in the undoing of the contingent plan which included the development of a yearbook class. Kelli Helgeson (part-time teacher) will continue working on the middle school yearbook, now that the students will be returning to art.

This week 6th, 7th and 8th grade language art teachers will be getting briefed this week on a pilot reading assessment. Part of our Response to Intervention (RtI) initiative is to adopt a baseline reading assessment given to all middle school students. The assessment is from AIMSWeb which includes online support and data warehousing of scores. Depending how a student does on the assessment will dictate what kind of intervention and ongoing measurements of growth. We are all very excited to begin this process; I will keep you updated as we progress.

Initial MEAP scores from this year's are already available in a very raw form. The scores are currently for limited eyes and not yet been compiled; this is early compared to past years.

Leadership:

Collaborative Time and Shared Leadership

The Professional Development Committee did an excellent job preparing and implementing our last professional develop day on January 15th. We are continuing our focus on RtI and our day started with a very dynamic teacher from Okemos who presented unique and diverse ideas to engage students in learning. Mrs. Hodgson shared her power point regarding the high school format and philosophy related to grades. Also Dr. Norton, our current RtI facilitator, presented an overview of AIMSWeb and those teachers involved with the initiative. In the afternoon the staff returned to their individual buildings and worked on initial intervention for all students and reviewing our EdYes report for the Michigan Department of Education. This is part of our self-evaluation for our district and building grades.

Personnel Updates:

It is my understanding that probationary teacher's first semester evaluations are completed and I will be scheduling their second semester evaluations. I will be reviewing personnel files to see if any tenure teachers are due for an evaluation this year. I believe that we will be moving Mrs. Doepker's sub (Mrs. Thackery) to Mrs. Olson's 3rd grade for the remainder of the year and I will be interviewing a candidate for Mrs. Doepker's classes this week.

School Community Relations:

I requested Mrs. Doepker to send out a memo to the 8th grade parents updating them of the status of the Washington D.C. trip. The trips itinerary has been adjusted but individual costs has remained the same, while reducing the overall cost. Mrs. Doepker has a few fundraising events scheduled and currently feels everything is on. She did note that there are several students selecting not to go, more than in the past. These students are not even interested in scholarship opportunities. In her memo Jessica gave contact information for while she is out and that she is scheduled to return March 1st.

Highlights and Upcoming Events

Boys basketball games: January 25th at Laingsburg
January 27th at home vs Carson City Crystal
February 1st at Fulton
February 3rd home vs Saranac

SOAR Reward--Roller Skating at Edru January 28th

No School - End of MP - January 29th
Start of 3rd MP - February 1st

Report Cards Mailed - February 5th

Middle School Honors assembly February 11th - 9 a.m.
Middle School Honors reception February 11th - 7 p.m. (for students who qualify)