



Subject: Curriculum Update
Date: October 15, 2024

Curriculum Update

Cards for Kids: Beth Slusher has worked with the Villa Park Public Library and the Helen Plum Public Library to provide free library cards for District 45 students who live in unincorporated areas and qualify for the Federal free or reduced lunch program. The program grants these students borrowing privileges at these libraries. This year, we have provided 205 students in the Villa Park and Lombard unincorporated areas with this opportunity.

K-5 ARC Data: Recently, we received Baseline Cohort Reading Proficiency Analyses for the 2023-24 School Year in grades K-5 for two assessments our teachers use. One highlight of the data is the improvement in the number of students who begin the school year reading text at the emergency level (below grade level). In our first full year of ARC implementation (2021-2022), forty-eight (48) percent of K - 5 students began the school year reading text at the emergency level (below grade level). The following year (2022-2023), thirty-five (35) percent of students began the school year reading text at the emergency grade level (below grade level). This past school year (2023-2024), twenty-one (21) percent of students began the school year reading text at the emergency level (below grade level). While we will not rest until every child in District 45 can read and enjoy text at or above grade level, we are heartened by our data's trajectory.

ECRA: ECRA Group is a K12 research and analytics consulting firm that helps school districts and educational leaders improve student outcomes. ECRA applies predictive models to a school district's data to provide district and school leaders with the information needed to ensure all students succeed. After our fall MAP window closed, ECRA analyzed the data and provided the district and buildings with our fall MAP Growth reports. These reports allow us to see how students are performing in relation to their expected growth. Information is disaggregated by district, buildings, as grade levels, by subject area (math and ELA), and by students. On Friday, October 11, during Institute Day, our building administrators spent time reviewing the power and possibility of this report with the ECRA professional developer.

SEL Survey: Beginning this year, District 45 will collect self-reported, **confidential** survey data from students two times a year (October and April) to gather information about our students' needs related to the Illinois State Social Emotional Learning Standards. The purpose of this SEL Survey is to hear directly from our students and their self-identified needs for instruction in the area of Social Emotional Learning.

Wildcat Jazz Ensemble: At Jefferson, the band and orchestra teachers do things differently regarding their jazz ensemble. Many schools offer traditional jazz bands, meaning saxophone,

trumpet, trombone, drum set, piano, bass, and guitar play, because jazz music is written out for those specific instruments. At Jefferson, they believe that jazz is one of the few authentic American art forms, so they want all band and orchestra students to learn about jazz. To make this possible, Jefferson directors rewrite music, redistribute parts, transpose parts, and more. Still, they take on this additional work as they feel it is worth having all students included. In addition to fostering a love of music, particularly jazz music, opening up the Wildcat Jazz Ensemble provides the band and orchestra students a chance to collaborate and work with one another and both directors as they team teach the Wildcat Jazz Ensemble.

Professional Development Events: Providing professional development opportunities is critical to the success of initial and ongoing curriculum implementation efforts. The following is a list of district-provided professional development opportunities this past month:

- ARC Learning Lab for special education teachers
- SEL Learning Lab at Westmore
- ARC Leadership Learning Series
- ARC Foundational Skills Series (Institute Day)
- Responsive Classroom (Institute Day)
- IEP Writing (Institute Day)
- Handwriting with SASSED (Institute Day)
- Summit K12 (Institute Day)