

Pleasantdale School District 107

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Math Progress Update 2016 - 2017 School Year

Throughout the 2016-2017 school year, teachers at the elementary and middle school levels have been engaged in a variety of activities related to improving the way students learn mathematics. After Illinois adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in 2010, all Illinois public schools were expected to fully implement curricula to meet these standards by the 2013-2014 school year. We continue to prioritize revamping our mathematics curriculum and instruction each year as we look to further improve our implementation of the CCSS.

Background:

This year, teachers have had the opportunity to participate in the Metro Chicago Math Initiative (MCMI) to further develop their understanding of best practices in teaching and learning mathematics, as well as provide time for articulation and collaboration with other area school districts.

As a reminder, MCMI has a focus on 5 big ideas:

1. Focusing on student thinking and learning, with rich tasks and formative assessment
2. Building teacher capacity by attending to content knowledge, resources, and practice
3. Enabling effective instruction through structures, policies, and supervision
4. Promoting collaboration to support reflection, growth, and sustainability
5. Developing a district infrastructure to develop and sustain a first-rate mathematics program

Simultaneously, Pleasantdale teachers had the option to participate in a full-year math pilot to determine if there are new resources the district should adopt in order to better meet the CCSS and align with our understanding of what we need in order for rich, meaningful math learning to occur.

As a reminder, the following resources are being piloted by teachers this school year:

- PreK-5: Origo Stepping Stones
- Kinder-4: Math Learning Center Bridges
- Grades 6-8: Big Ideas Math

Action Plan

Throughout the school year in tandem with participation in MCMI and piloting resources, our elementary and middle school math teachers have looked to improve the intentionality with which they integrate math talk, number sense, and multiple strategies/representations into their math classrooms. Collaborative conversations occur on a regular basis related to these targets to examine how they relate to the pilot resources as well as the way teaching and learning is evolving as a result of the participation in MCMI.

In addition to these conversations, the following steps have been taken this school year to

ensure we are using a holistic approach as we look to provide the Board of Education with a recommendation related to next steps for teaching and learning mathematics in District 107.

- ✓ Provided on-site PD for Origo Stepping Stones and Big Ideas
- ✓ Offered site visit for Bridges pilot program
- ✓ Administered and analyzed trimester 1 teacher feedback
- ✓ Provided additional research on best practices in mathematics
 - [NCTM Principles to Action Executive Summary](#)
 - [TEDX Talk](#) from Jo Boaler, Professor of Mathematics at Stanford Graduate School of Education
- ✓ Created "[District 107 Values for Teaching & Learning Mathematics](#)"
- ✓ Examined [Ed Reports](#) for pilot resources
- ✓ Completed a price comparison for pilot resources
- ✓ Compared MAP data for elementary pilot classes
- ✓ Articulated with Lyons Township High School regarding the future direction of their math programs and resources
- ✓ Articulated with other area districts using pilot resources to gather feedback
- ✓ Administered trimester 2 teacher feedback

The following action items still need to be completed prior to providing the Board of Education with an official recommendation for next steps at the April BoE meeting.

- Analyze trimester 2 teacher feedback
- Administer and analyze parent/student feedback

Conclusion

Our goal is always to provide our students with the best opportunities for learning. To do so, it is important we consider a variety of data points to make the best possible decision for the future of mathematics in Pleasantdale. We look forward to providing the Board of Education with our recommendations for District 107 mathematics moving forward at our April Board of Education meeting.