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Director of Learning

April 2025 Board Report

### **Teaching and Learning**

K-5 teachers are rolling out our new Science resource, *Inspire*, with the support of STEM Coach Kari Gemmell. Teachers have shared how valuable Kari's guidance has been in strengthening their instruction and making the transition to the new curriculum smooth. Students are really enjoying the Science experiences, especially the hands-on activities. At the same time, they're learning that Science isn't always just hands-on fun—it also involves reading, thinking, and analysis.

### **Assessment**

During April, our Gifted Identification Team will convene to review all nominated students—whether recommended by a parent, teacher, or both—as well as those whose assessment results suggest further evaluation is necessary to ensure their advanced educational needs are met. Following these meetings, families and students will be informed of the outcomes and the planned support strategies to foster continued academic growth during the 2025-2026 school year.

### **Professional Development**

In late March, we successfully concluded our *Teaching with Empathy* book study. As you may recall, approximately 50 staff members participated in this professional learning opportunity. Overall, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, as reflected in the comments below. I look forward to offering this professional development opportunity again for staff over the summer.

Comments from Staff:

- This book helped me to reflect back on why I got into teaching in the first place and renewed my perspective on how I interact daily with my students and coworkers.
- I always considered myself an empathetic teacher, but this book study taught me so much about empathy and its importance in our schools. It also solidified my understanding of why we need to make the shift to competency based reporting and provides actionable steps to carry it out.
- With the increase of students who need mental health/SEL support, as educators we need to recognize that our role is beyond just test scores and passing along information to students. Our calling now includes creating time

and space in our practice to support the development of our learners in becoming empowered, resilient, self-directed and empathic human beings. This book helps to outline ways we can meet those needs.

- *Teaching with Empathy* falls in line naturally with so many conversations that have been happening across this district this year in DLT, GLT, and in CBE work. It was nice to have another reference (and validation), and a place to get input from people across different buildings through this book study.
- In addition to being a great opportunity to reflect upon my own teaching and how I can show empathy to my students, coworkers, and myself, I thought this book club ended up being a great facilitator of vertical articulation. I really enjoyed hearing perspectives from Preschool through 5th grade teachers to learn more about what empathy looks like across our district, not just here at Lakeview. It was interesting to hear some of the challenges they face and to think about what connections and what differences exist between their experiences and mine.