

Date: February 10, 2020
To: LPSD School Board Members
From: Bill Cornell
Re: Curriculum: December 2019-February 2020

Professional Development

Tutor and Student Teacher Training- We welcomed a big crew of tutors, student teachers, and new teachers at our January 8-11 training in Anchorage. This always ends up being a whirlwind of a training, but is crucial to getting folks ready to travel to our communities. A big thank you to Amber Kresl for delivering Reach for Reading training to our student teachers and teachers; to Moon McCarley for preparing our tutors with specific intervention and MAP training; Kasie Luke for HR guidelines; and to Jim Dube who seemed to fill in in a number of places including Powerschool, technology training, and shopping.

A quick thank you to Chugach School District for once again letting us use their facilities.

RTI/MTSS Conference- Our leadership team, as well as two teachers- Elisabeth Ludwig and Branden Hummel- attended this conference in Anchorage, January 24-26. After a number of years attending this conference, I am still appreciative of the variety of sessions they provide. In particular this year, our team took advantage of a number of literacy focused, as well as mindfulness and self-regulation sessions. On top of the conference, our team made it a point to meet every day after sessions to reflect on what we learned. I have to say...LPSD is a talented bunch of educators when you have them all sitting in one room! I am hoping we have the opportunity to send another team to the conference next year.

Monday Late Start- Both January and February's late starts focused on interventions. In January, sites focused on on-site tutor schedules, and acquainting their tutors with their students and villages. In February, teams looked at intervention data to try to meet the needs of individual students, and/or diving deeper into MAP Skills- the progress monitoring portion of our MAP testing.

Curriculum

Assessment Committee- We continue to work as a team to build web-based level assessments in Powerschool. It is my hope to be able to share with you a couple versions of these assessments at our April meeting. As a recap, these web-based assessments will allow us more flexibility in editing our assessments, and bring in line our level assessments with the format of assessment students see through MAP and PEAKS testing.

Science Committee- Currently, the Science Committee is starting to look at the Next Gen Science Standards and compare them to our current standards. They are also exploring the idea of having two rotations in science similar to what we have in Social Studies- a level 6-8 rotation, and a level 9-11 rotation- where students would rotate through Life, Earth, and Physical sciences in a three year cycle. The thought here is to ease the burden many of our teachers in our small schools face when it comes to multiple science preps in one class period.

Distance Classes

This is always the time of year that I get a little nervous with travel, spring breaks/vacation days, and how absences impact distance classes. Fortunately, Mr. Meneskie and Mrs. Nikolous have really streamlined the ability for students to access material when they are traveling. With only two teachers (as opposed to when we had 8-10 distance teachers across the district), there is a lot of

flexibility in being able to offer class to smaller groups that might not be traveling to jamborees or be on vacation.

With this in mind, I think it is important for us to encourage good attendance...distance classes end on April 10, just nine weeks away!

ANSEP

We are partnering for a third year with the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP), BBNC, and other school districts in the region to offer a Middle School Academy, May 26- June 6. Throughout the two-week camp, students will focus on STEM topics while staying on UAA's campus. They will have the opportunity to engage in a variety of hands-on STEM activities that promote problem solving, research, critical thinking, and communication skills. This is also a great opportunity for an LPSD student to Experience Out of a level.

The application deadline is March 2, 2020. If you know of interested students in your community, please encourage them to apply.

As always, feel free to contact me at 571-1211, or via email at bcornell@lpsd.com, if you have any curriculum related questions.