

General Education Update for meeting on 6/20/19:

Summer Story Walk

- The GSC Early Care/Learning & Literacy subcommittee has been working diligently in preparation for the Story Walk to be held at the downtown Farmer's Market in Hillsdale on July 13th. The event will blend literacy and nutrition efforts into one fun event! Participating families are provided tokens to redeem for fresh produce, and can earn an additional token by visiting a local county library after the event. All county libraries have agreed to participate with the token exchange and several will be participating as volunteers at the event.

GSRP & Hillsdale County Preschool Joint Recruitment

- Preschool Joint Recruitment is well underway. We are currently working through the process of determining student eligibility by completing individual registration appointments where we validate income eligibility and family criteria including risk factors. Head Start placements are happening at the end of the month. As mandated, these happen prior to GSRP enrollment. We anticipate starting enrollment of GSRP eligible children immediately following Head Start at the end of the month and continuing throughout July.

Literacy Pop Up

- Our first Spring 2019 Literacy Pop Up Event was held May 20 from 4:30-6:30 at Udderside in Jonesville. This event provided families an opportunity to engage language-based activities including reading, writing, and oral language skills. Several community agencies including Community Action Agency, HCISD Early On, Highfields, and Jonesville Library partnered for the event. Each child in attendance received a free book to take home. 59 families participated in the event with a total of 186 in attendance.

New Free Little Libraries Added

- Three new free little library houses were installed recently. New locations include: SideKick Cafe, Countryside Montessori, and within North Adams.

Summer Literacy Kickoff!

- HCISD is excited to announce our 3rd annual Summer Literacy Kickoff! This is a professional learning opportunity where PreK-5 educators from around the county will come together to learn from each other. All PD sessions will be centered around the Essential Instructional Practices in Early Literacy. This event is scheduled for June 19th and currently has 25 local teachers registered.

STEM

- The Ten 80 grant “race car module” is moving forward within the six county STEM consortium. The first event, viewed as a “preliminary trial”, will be held on September 25 at Michigan International Speedway. Students will arrive by 9:00 for registration followed by a tour and “innovation session”. They will then begin the three different “races” for which their car has been designed. (the exact agenda for the day will be formalized within the next month). Lunch will be provided for participants and coaches. It is expected that the event will conclude around 1:30. All expenses are paid by the Ten 80 grant and will not incur any costs for the districts choosing to participate. Multiple emails have been sent to administrators and STEM members relative to engaging students in this activity. We have teachers who have taken over the coaching responsibilities but would like to see a greater representation of students from across the county.
- Science work and STEM professional learning for the 2019-20 school year is being developed. Dates will coincide with those that have been set by the HCISD and local districts. We are also planning to provide “Science/STEM Nights of Learning” which will be made available to the public. We want to encourage local industry to become involved in the process of promoting STEM teaching in the county. The integral approach to appreciating the full breadth of the program is best understood when industry and education work hand-in-hand.

Science

Monica has been meeting with individual schools to support the NGSS process and the selection of textbook materials. A variety of resources have been shared, including but not limited to, Cereal City Science and FOSS. These will also become a part of the professional learning for the next school year.

School Improvement Facilitation

- Local districts have continued to receive support as they pull together their District and School Improvement Plans. There have been discussions relative to deadlines and expectations related to meeting state mandates. Additionally Monica has been working with individual schools to provide extra support on specific pieces of their Plan. Schools will submit their District plan, along with their Performance Evaluation Tool, by June 30. All schools were provided a printed form with deadlines and guidelines as they move through the process. Sam Ewing, state-wide expert with Title and School Improvement, was at our last Principals’ meeting. He led our team through a power- point that highlighted the intricacies of the Title plan and how it interacts with the financial pieces of the District and School Improvement plans. During the Principals’ meetings for the 2019-20 school year, we will revisit the “time-line of events” as prescribed by the state as schools prepare their plans. We are moving from the ASSIST program to

MICIP which will be introduced to School Improvement Facilitators next fall. The roll-out will be gradual and then shared with county administrators.

Leading and Learning Network

- On June 26, we are concluding our first year of our Leading and Learning principal's cohort. We have received amazing feedback about the transformational impact this has had on our leaders that participated. Plans are already on the way to collaborate with JCISD once again on a second cohort and the continuation of the first cohort is already scheduled.

Instructional Rounds

- On Tuesday 5/28, our team worked with Williams Elementary on this ongoing effort to improve schoolwide literacy instruction. We worked with all of the teachers and administrators to set a vision, create common goals for the school, and inspire and set direction for next year as they align and prioritize their work around literacy.