



Minidoka County School District #331

"We will increase instructional intensity in all classrooms through the use of Idaho Core Standards and by incorporating 21st century strategies to improve academic achievement and demonstrate growth for all students."

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Dear School Board,

First, I want to let you know how much we appreciate the availability of professional development days in next years' calendar. Research shows that providing appropriate training for teachers is the best way to meet the needs and changes in curriculum and effective teaching strategies. Even though we have had necessary and timely training this year, we have also felt the constraints in time availability to be able to share out to the staff from the various training we have had and to be able to follow through with implementation. I have met with my teachers these past few months regarding professional development needs and opportunities, and they all agree that we have been limited in being able to follow through with certain programs and strategies we would like to implement.

As an elementary team, we have discussed what PD we need district-wide for our teachers, and we also realize that each building has specific needs we want to be able to address at the building level, so we would like some flexibility in being able to provide training and time for implementation.

The designated days before school starts will be as scheduled for new teacher training, our district staff mtg., school staff mtg., and team meetings.

Oct. 5 & 6th are designated district training in math with our math coaches with time to review standards and curriculum and more in-depth training.

Nov. 14th – we are looking at district-wide training to better meet the needs of our EL students, such as the SIOP program. (to be determined)

Jan. 2nd – building specific training

Feb. 26 – possible district-wide technology training

Apr. 27th – building specific training

Our plan is to meet after school from 3:30-5:00. We would meet twice in September, once in October, once in Nov., once in Dec., twice in Jan. once in Feb., once in Mar. and once in Apr. in exchange for the scheduled all day PD Jan. 2 and Feb. 26 or Apr. 27 (depending on district-wide technology training).

Some of the training topics will be RTI plans/Milepost data entry; PBIS activities; PLC meetings for math and ELA teams, technology integration; grade-level collaboration; a book study; and others.

I appreciate your consideration for letting us be flexible with professional development to best meet the needs of my school.

Thank you.
Sanie Baker