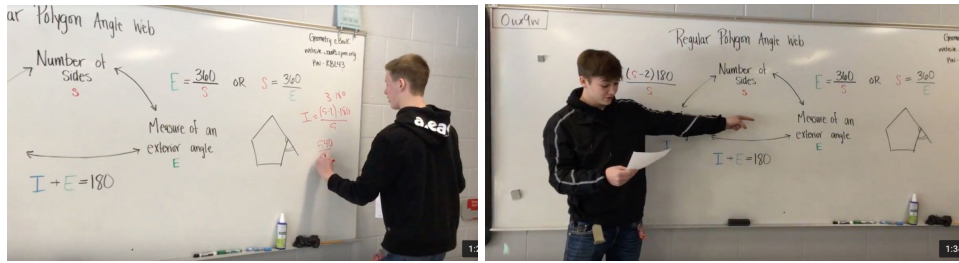


Mathematics Board Report - March 2019

Submitted by Mrs. Jessica Eisenman



Unity Elementary School

Unity Elementary is into their second year of their new curriculum, Bridges Across Mathematics. This curriculum was aligned to the Wisconsin State Standards in Mathematics. Staff note that there are many cross curricular connections that have students learning about and applying mathematics to concepts such as penguins and quilting. A favorite portion of the Bridges curriculum is Number Corner. It is encouraging students to develop their mathematics vocabulary while having conversations about mathematics. Teachers find that students are learning soft skills, such as respectfully agreeing and disagreeing, while backing their thoughts and arguments. What an exciting thing!

Early in the school year, the elementary math team was able to spend time developing power standards assessments. These assessments have two portions: A skills check of four “basic knowledge” questions and two questions that are more performance checks. Students who don’t show proficiency are given the opportunity to work on them on a more individualized basis to help the students achieve mastery.

In terms of Response to Intervention (RTI) to help students who are struggling academically, the elementary is utilizing the Bridges Intervention Kit, Do the Math, and Number World.

Unity Middle School

Unity Middle School is extremely excited to have the opportunity to teach math all three trimesters for sixty minutes a day. Teachers are finding that they have much more flexibility in terms of their teaching; they are able to really hit the big ideas hard, but also are able to meet with students on a more individualized basis to add those students who are struggling. In terms of curriculum, the middle school is utilizing CMP (Connected Math Program Version 3) at Grades Six to Eight, and are really happy with it. Fifth grade uses Bridges.

In addition to curriculum, math students at the middle school are using Reflex Math, iXL, and Edgenuity to help students build math fluency. Students are engaged in the programs and are showing great growth. It serves a great review of old content at both the 7th and 8th grade levels.

In terms of RTI, the middle school math team will be offering a 60 minute course every other day to help bring up those students who are struggling in mathematics. Students are being chosen based on their STAR and FORWARD test scores, as well as teacher recommendation. Speaking of STAR testing, this is the first year the middle and elementary have implemented this screening and progress monitoring tool. They find that they like the ease and time-efficiency of the program.

Unity High School

Math at Unity High School has been experiencing some major changes as well. With the change to a trimester schedule, students now get to enjoy two trimesters of math for each core class. That is, math was split into A (first half) and B (second half) courses. Students take the A portion first or second trimester and the B portion second or third trimester. The trimester schedule has also lead to 60 minute class periods, which has been exciting. Students are able to dive a little deeper into each lesson to see the deep connections. In addition, the 60 minutes allows for some time for students to begin work on practice problems; something that hadn't happened in the past as CPM (College Preparatory Math) is written for 45-50 minute periods and classes were 43 minutes long in previous years.

Speaking of CPM, teachers are finding they have grown comfortable with the scope and sequence of the curriculum which is taught at all levels of math in the high school (self-contained special education classrooms to calculus). Because of this comfortability, teachers are finding ways to adapt it to meet the needs of our students at a much higher rate than they have in the past. The trimester schedule is also allowing the high school math department to begin offering other elective classes outside of the CPM curriculum, which is exciting.

In terms of RTI, the high school has switched to iXL for an intervention program. Students are finding it more engaging than previous programs.

Finally, the Unity Math Department has instituted a social media campaign called #MathMinuteMonday. Each grade level has the opportunity to have their students describe and teach one of their big skills to their parents and guardians through video, which then gets shared out through Facebook. Students feel empowered to share their knowledge and explain different methods for doing mathematics! Check it out!