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To: Brian Charron, Superintendent
Board of Education

From: Jessica Washausen
PK-5 Curriculum Coordinator

Date: January 27, 2025

Subject: January Board Report

January 2025 Board Report

Benchmarking in Aimsweb Plus

Kindergarten through eighth grade have completed the middle-of-the-year benchmarking in Aimsweb Plus. Benchmarking in reading and math is completed at the beginning, middle and end of the school year. Teachers will use this data to continue to make informed decisions about student needs and progress.

Bethalto Teachers Visit

On January 22, 2025, six Bethalto teachers came to Rogers Elementary and Gardner Elementary to observe Orton-Gillingham/IMSE instruction in reading classes and a special education class. We appreciate the flexibility of the teachers to allow these visitors into the classroom. It is exciting to see our teachers as leaders in the area for IMSE instruction.

ELA Committee Update

After careful consideration and research, we are excited to announce that Waterloo CUSD5 will be piloting Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts (Amplify CKLA) in two classes in grades second through fifth. Amplify CKLA is a nationally recognized curriculum used in over 38,000 classrooms and top-rated by the third-party curriculum review organization, EdReports. Amplify CKLA's evidence-based practices also meet Tier 1 ESSA evidence requirements.

Amplify CKLA provides high-quality classroom resources and lessons to help children become fluent, confident readers while deepening their background knowledge and vocabulary through exposure to a variety of topics. Research shows that background knowledge and related vocabulary about a topic improves reading comprehension. Building on this critical research, Amplify CKLA offers a dual approach, focusing both on developing foundational reading skills and integrating content knowledge in science, social studies, and literature into the literacy block.

As students learn about fables, folk tales, and fairy tales, astronomy, ancient world civilizations, and American history, they will also become a geologist, an entomologist, an ecologist, a poet, and more! The goal of the program's rich topics is to spark students' curiosity and foster a lifelong love for reading.