



Medford Public School
ISD #763

Medford High School

School Board Report

October 2015

1. Recognition

- Mrs. Hoefs is the high school teacher of the month

2. Teachers as Learners

- Mrs. Groh attended a programming workshop to build her skills for the game programming class
- Mr. Ovrebo attended a school law conference to learn about the latest updates to school laws

3. Site Team sets building goals

- Increase the percent of all students tested who are proficient as measured by the MCA III math assessment to 44% in May 2016.
- Increase the percent of all students tested who are proficient as measured by the MCA III reading assessment to 50% in May 2016
- Increase the percent of students in the medium to high growth category in reading and math to 75% in May 2016.

4. Data day activities (Theme was: Take Action)

- High school teachers recently spent a day looking at student data and forming plans to raise student achievement
 - i. We looked at the “big picture” data to give everyone a clear understanding of where we are as a school. The focus was on proficiency scores, growth scores, and classroom performance. Teachers created an action plan to assist and support students in their classes.
 - ii. Math achievement was focused on by looking at a building wide problem solving strategy all teachers can use to help students solve word problems on MCA tests.
 - iii. Achievement data resources that are available to teachers were reviewed and teachers were given time to look at the data.
 - iv. Grade level teams met to discuss individual student performance and create action plans for at risk students at each grade level.
 - v. All teachers took part in a literacy self assessment to help collect data on which best practices we are currently using in the high school and to give us information to plan professional development activities on November 6th.

- vi. Literacy strategies that all teachers can use were introduced and discussed in the PLC meetings in the afternoon. We will go into greater detail about how to use the strategies in classrooms and teachers will create literacy action plans at our November 6th staff development ½ day.

5. Supporting Reading in All Classes

- To address the current reading achievement scores, we are taking several action steps
- The ELA teachers have focused their professional development activities on building reading skills for all of our students. Over the summer, they were trained on Reader's Choice Workshop, which uses an online assessment tool to determine student's reading level and then find them engaging books at the upper level of their lexile to raise their reading levels. 7th & 8th grade students are all required to always have a choice novel at all time and all teachers have students read during any down time – no “free” time.
- Now that we have collected baseline literacy data to understand what practices are being used, we will use that data to plan staff development activities to support literacy across all content areas in the following ways¹:
 - i. Provide effective vocabulary instruction
 - ii. Provide direct and explicit comprehension strategy instruction
 - iii. Provide opportunities for extended discussion of text meaning and interpretation
 - iv. Increase student motivation and engagement in literacy learning
- ¹ From Kamil, M., Borman, G.D., Dole, J., Kral, C. C., Salinger, T., and Torgesen, J. (2008). *Improving adolescent literacy: Effective classroom and intervention practices: A Practical Guide* (NCEE #2008-4027). Washington, D.C.: National Center for Educational Evaluation and Regional Assistance, Institute for Education Sciences, U. S. Department of Education.
- Testing considerations: In order to provide the best testing environment for our students, we are planning to administer tests using the iPads in smaller groups and breaking the test into smaller sections.

6. Supporting Math in All Classrooms

- The math department has aligned standards to all of their classes and is working on using the benchmark reports to guide how much time they spend on each topic throughout the year. Lessons that don't support state standards are being eliminated. We are preparing to do a more extensive review of materials this year as we prepare to purchase a new curriculum for 2016-2017.
- All math tests are being analyzed to understand how many questions are being asked about each standard. The test can then be analyzed by student and used to refer students to extra help in very specific areas.
- Additional emphasis is being placed on context (or word) problems similar to those students will see on the MCA tests.

- Teachers across the school are supporting math achievement by utilizing a common problem solving strategy that will help students persist when they encounter difficult problems
 - i. Understand
 - ii. Plan
 - iii. Solve
 - iv. Check

7. Upcoming Events

- 10/22 – All Juniors and Seniors Attend College Fair
- 10/26 – Winter Sports Meeting
- 10/28-10/30 – FFA National Convention
- 11/5 – End of Quarter #1
- 11/6 – No Students (Teachers have ½ Day Staff Development, ½ Day Work Day)
- 11/13-11/15 – Fall Play Performances
- 11/16 – NHS Blood Drive
- 11/17 – Parent Conferences
- 11/19 – Parent Conferences
- 11/20 – No School