

Curriculum Highlights

- The teachers of the 4K Program have met with me on three Friday afternoons to work on the alignment of our curriculum to the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards in all five modules: Health and Physical Development, Social and Emotional Development, Language Development and Communication, Approaches to Learning, and Cognition and General Knowledge. The framework of content and learning targets, developed in our sessions, will be used for unit and lesson plan development.
- Barron County Education/Manufacturing Advisory Group – This newly formed group held its second meeting on February 16, 2015 and John Meznarich and I attended. The focus was on developing business and education partnerships, current initiatives in place in the area, staff development opportunities, and curricular applications.
- Badger Exam Preparation Workshops (February 10 and 24) for English Language Arts and Mathematics were held at CESA 11 and attended by middle school staff and myself. Using the Depth of Knowledge framework, teachers examined the types of student work and performance assessments that they use and evaluated how well they extend student thinking. These strategies are an integral part of the expectations of the Common Core State Standards, are central to the design of Badger Exam questions, and comprise good instructional practice. Key emphasis was placed on making changes that are good for instruction – not just assessment.
- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) - February's topic is part one of a two-part series on issues in standards-based grading. Leaders met on February 18 for their training and teachers will meet in their PLC groups on February 27. Focus this month is on the meaning of mastery, potential inconsistencies in grading practices, and the value of allowing retakes and redos. These issues are a natural follow-up to prior work with teaching for understanding, viewing all things through the lens of learning, formative assessment, and vocabulary.
- Teachers of Grades 7-12 mathematics, science, and social studies are continuing with a resource review process. Soon, we will meet to prioritize the materials and develop a purchasing proposal.

Assessment Highlights

- WKCE Individual Profile Reports (science and social studies) have been mailed to the homes of students in grades 4, 8, and 10.
- ACT parent information letters have been mailed to homes.
- February 19 – CESA 11 meeting for District Assessment Coordinators
- February 23 @ 9 a.m. – Regional training on administering the Badger Exam
- February 23 @ 2:40 p.m. – District proctor training for the ACT
- February 23 – Juniors begin the pre-assessment tasks for the ACT Plus Writing and ACT WorkKeys under the direction of John Meznarich
- February 25 – District planning meeting with Pat Schroeder and Tom Spanel to prepare for the Badger Exam administration.