

Date: October 2023

To: LPSD School Board Members

From: Nicole Metzgar and Kate Cornell

Re: October Curriculum Report

Professional Development

LPSD offered staff two new virtual professional development learning opportunities: Edcamp and Choose your Own PD Adventure.

- In Edcamp participants collaboratively determine topics for discussion and join different breakout rooms to have professional discussions about the topic. Quiana principals for introducing LPSD to this PD activity.
- In Choose your Own PD Adventure participants were encouraged to consider personal professional goals, possible struggles, and even something that seems fun or inspirational. This idea was inspired by Ms. Amber Kresl.

September 29th: Feedback and surveys are helping offer better virtual learning to LPSD staff. Training topics covered during the Friday In-Service included: Professional Boundaries, Effective Communication, How to Use Your Environment to Enrich Your Teaching and Student Learning, and Lifting the Cognitive Writing Load for Students. Also a grant allowed LPSD to send teachers to an in-person Robotics training in Anchorage over this weekend. Chin'an Mr. Nathan McArthur for organizing and coordinating the Robotics training for LPSD. Here is a link to the September 29th In-Service Schedule. [Link](#)

October 18th-20th: The collaborative spirit is strong and has come together to create 3 days of valuable virtual learning for LPSD staff. Here is a link to the October In-Service Schedule. [Link](#). This was a success mostly because of the incredible efforts of Nicole Metzgar in putting together a really good schedule that balanced out time together, and time reflecting and working on how to implement what was learned. Quiana, Nicole!

Reads Act Professional Learning Communities (PLC): In response to the new Reads Act Legislation recently passed by the state of Alaska, all K-3 LPSD teachers are meeting almost every Wednesday from 2:30-4 PM to be trained in Reads Act requirements. Chin'an to Ms. McCarley for organizing and delivering this training to LPSD staff.

Levelock Site Visit: Nicole Metzgar traveled to Levelock Oct 25-27 to explain the standards based system to new teachers and to show them how to navigate and update the online recording system, Powerschool.

Curriculum News

Monthly Collaboration with Principals: October's focus was setting a time for virtual local language classes, and creating a dynamic virtual October In-Service.

2024 Spring Language Courses: LPSD students will have the option to learn Yupik and Dena'ina virtually. These courses will be taught by local language teachers through the ANE grant. LPSD Principals are looking at a good time to offer this learning opportunity within the school day. Chin'an! Quyana! To all who are working together to offer this learning opportunity to LPSD students. I was given permission to share this message with you from local Dena'ina language teacher, Michelle Ravenmoon:

Yagheli ehlan du,

You don't know how much this means to me. I am so happy to be part of a team that will be able to provide our local Native languages in our school district! I am crying happy tears....this is 25 years too late for my high school education when I requested to learn Dena'ina or Yup'ik and I was told I could learn Spanish. There were no teachers of our languages and there was no interest from the district to even attempt this. This is a very historic and important shift. I hope it is a permanent effort towards our people's healing and valuing our identity. CHIN'AN GHELI!! Michelle

End of Level Assessments: Teachers continue to familiarize themselves with the updated assessments as this is the 1st and 2nd year they are being used. We will continue to edit and revise them when appropriate. Nicole Metzgar would be happy to give the board a virtual walk through of what the new assessments look like in both paper and online formats.

Technology Standards: A proposal to update technology standards is in progress. A group of teachers met during October Inservice to initiate this process. LPSD teachers and principals are currently reviewing the proposal and offering input. It will go to LSAC's, Community, and School Board members for feedback in November-January. The hope is to have standards finalized by February and be implemented August 2024. Link to Proposal is here: [Link](#)

LV 10 Physical Science Standards: Quyana to Matthew Grossmann for leaning in deep to LV 10 Physical Science. Through his efforts, we discovered that the standards we had in LV 10 were actually 2 courses instead of 1 course. Science teachers met during Monday's Teachers Work Day to make the appropriate changes to LV 10.

Distance Classes: Distance classes are rolling right along. There will be students moving forward a level in MA in the near future and they will continue on during their same MA time, they will just be starting a new level. Mrs. Nikolaus has 60 students in her ELA classes this year—the WR load has increased quite a bit and we have been working on figuring out how to share the load a bit more with onsite teachers. This will allow the onsite teachers to know better where their students are at in regards to their levels, and where their grammar skills are so that they can tailor their grammar lessons more to what students need.

Advanced Online Classes: No change from last board report: 9 students from 3 sites have enrolled into 12 advanced online courses.

Experiencing Out: No change from last board report: 0 students have Experienced Out for high school credit.

Leveling Transfer Students: Since the last board report, LPSD has had 3 students from other districts transfer into our SBS system. This brings the total transfer students for the school year up to 21. Curriculum helps place these students in appropriate levels.

As always, feel free to contact Nicole Metzgar at nmetzgar@lpsd.com (907.781.3201), or Kate Cornell at kcornell@lpsd.com (907.571.7020). Thanks for all you do!