

# Pleasantdale School District 107

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Over the course of the last year, our increased efficiency with summer professional work has resulted in better professional development and improved curriculum work. These efficiencies have produced better results at a lower cost. The summer of 2016 has brought a wide variety of professional growth and learning opportunities. These experiences be grouped into three broad categories including technology integration and advancements, curricular areas, and forward planning.

The district has been moving at a breakneck pace to improve our instructional technology. We have offered a Tech Cafe throughout the summer in order to help teachers better understand the technologies available. We have provided participants with ideas to incorporate these tools into their instructional planning. Additionally, planning continues for the successful implementation of the district's new technology initiatives. We have devised a deployment plan for our grades 4-5 iPad Pilot. This plan will bring together students, staff, and parents for educational and informative activities. Finally, the district has provided professional development to a cadre of teachers on our new learning management system, Schoology. The district is following a "train-the-trainers" model, and these local experts will work with their colleagues during our August institute days to ensure a foundational understanding of this program. The administration has also been working hard on planning professional development to ensure a successful rollout of our new computer adaptive assessment, MAP, which will be implemented this fall.

The district has also used the summer months to complete a variety of curricular initiatives. Teams of teachers and administrators have created physical science units which reflect the Next Generation Science Standards. Our math pilot teachers have received orientations on their new materials in order to ensure a smooth beginning to the school year. An additional math opportunity was provided to all teachers as our new Assistant Principal, Meg Knapik, presented an interactive PD session titled "Supporting the Math Practices through Technology." Our Spanish teachers worked with a consultant on our Spanish curriculum refresh. The goal of their work is to develop a new Transitional Spanish class for our seventh and eighth graders. Finally, a group of teachers had the opportunity to attend a two-day ELA workshop with a focus on writing instruction.

This summer also brought more teacher voice to our professional development. A newly formed professional development steering committee reviewed data from last year's professional development survey as they worked to weave multiple initiatives into the 2016-17 calendar. The goal was to find balance between these competing initiatives and support a successful implementation of PD priorities.

These initiatives include Schoology, MAP, math pilots, technology pilot, participation in the West Cook Math Initiative, Student Growth within our evaluation system, and a continued investigation and implementation of new standards. The committee worked to meet the needs of the various staff groups that comprise District 107 while staying mindful of the amount of time it takes to implement these initiatives with integrity.

Presentation takeaways:

- Technology advancements continue through Tech Cafe sessions as well as preparation for the roll out of the 1:1 initiative, Schoology, and MAP.
- Progress continues in curricular areas including Science, Math, Spanish, and ELA. This progress will provide a platform for continued growth.
- Forward planning has occurred through the work of professional development steering sessions and the careful layout of initiatives in order to promote balance and reflection.

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## Mission

Ensure that each student is a passionate learner empowered with the Academic and social skills to responsibly choose and excel in life pursuits.