

# District Curriculum and Assessment Advisory Committee

Lynne Viker, Kathe Nickleby, Ellen Cole, Nancy Breening, Bethany Sneden, Jamie Chamberlain, Chad Halsten, Kristi Eckert, Alicia Dolentz, Mike Neubeck, Jean Swanson, Angie Rogosheske, Judith Schwartz, Jen Israel, Jennina Boskovich, Jean Swanson, Kirsten Bowens, Jean Oswald, Carol Bacon.

## **Welcome & Introductions:**

**Art Curriculum Enhancements:** Kristi Eckert, Chad Halsten, and Alicia Dolentz presented information about how the Fine Art Curriculum Review has resulted in improved innovation and equity for district art programs. Elementary teachers chose to get iPads and have found the technology very helpful in showing all students project details and instruction. The iPad has helped with equitable viewing so that all students are able to see the projects presented on the SMART Board and ask questions. It has allowed the teachers to move around the classroom and work with students as they learn about new art techniques. Teachers were also able to purchase items, such as paint brushes and other art supplies, which are being used to enhance lessons. The iPad is also allowing teachers to add student work to electronic files or portfolios. The plan is for students and their families to be able to see how the work develops over time.

At the secondary level Alicia Dolentz presented information about enhancements to the art program. Technology has been updated at the high school with the purchase of new Apple MAC computers and software. The new technology has greatly enhanced the learning experience for students. Students are taking the creative content that they are learning and are adapting these skills in other curricular areas. Students are more engaged which has resulted in increased creative energy in the Art Department. Apple MAC computers are the industry standard for careers in the creative and digital arts fields such as graphic design, computer animation, and web design. The state of the art equipment and software provide students with interests in these career paths the best opportunity to be ready to enter the workforce or further their education.

**Elementary Language Arts Program Changes:** Jamie Chamberlain, Literacy Coach, shared information about the elementary reading changes. Wildwood is moving to a Balanced Literacy Approach for reading. This approach encompasses a gradual release of instruction. The Gradual Release of Responsibility Framework has four phases of release of instruction. The first phase, "I Do It" is focused instruction by the teacher to the whole class and communicates the lesson's learning intention. The second phase is "We Do It" and is intended for guided

instruction to support students as they engage with learning new ideas. Next is “You Do It Together” a collaborative, small group learning model that helps to strengthen soft skills like communication, leadership and negotiation. The final phase of the Gradual Release learning model is the “You Do It Alone” phase where independent learning leads to students taking what they have learned and make it their own. Staff at O. H. Anderson have been using this model, and are continuing to refine their instruction to deliver more effective and engaging lessons.

The Benchmark Literacy resource was purchased for Wildwood Elementary to help support strong reading and writing skills. Each language arts classroom now has a library that encourages independent reading. Students are able to pick books on topics that interest them but are also appropriate to their reading level. Phonics is being taught using Startup Phonics, which is part of the Benchmark resources.

O. H. Anderson is using the Lucy Calkins Units of Study for Reading as their recourse for reading. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade classes are moving to the Daily 5 structure for their language arts instruction to help with the transition between buildings. Words Their Way continues to be used for phonics.

Writing Instruction will continue to be a focus area for both elementary schools. Wildwood is currently using the Benchmark resources. O. H. Anderson is using Writing Pathways.

Through the support of the literacy coach, innovative reading instruction is happening in all elementary classrooms.

**Gifted & Talented Program Update:** Jennifer Israel provided information about the Gifted and Talented program. She is currently working with students at Wildwood in reading groups to help support teachers as they adopt the new language arts curriculum. Her focus is to support staff to eventually allow them to differentiate the curriculum to bring students more rigor and enrichment opportunities

The district will be bringing back the CoGAT assessment to help identify students for Gifted and Talented programming. This assessment provides information on student ability and will be given in 1<sup>st</sup> Grade. The district is still evaluating whether to roll out the assessment this year or wait until the 2017-2018 school year. If the decision is made to wait until next year, the assessment will be given to both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades

The Gifted and Talented Parent Advisory Council has been merged into the District Curriculum and Assessment Advisory Committee so that all students, from struggling learners to high flyers are being represented at this meeting. Parents of students at all learning levels are welcome to participate in this committee.

The next meeting of the District Curriculum and Assessment Advisory Committee will be held on Monday, April 10, 2017 from 4:00 – 5:30. The meeting will be held at the District Education Center in the Community Room.