



To: Board of Education
From: Michelle Hilla
Re: Curriculum and Instruction Update
Date: January 13th, 2025

Curriculum Reviews:

- Our grades 3-5 teachers have completed their pilot and review of Collaborative Classroom. Following the essentials literacy rubric, the team, Katie Spisich, and I confidently recommended Collaborative Classroom for South Meadows. This program will be presented to the District Curriculum Council (DCC) on Tuesday, January 14th, and to the board on February 10th. Collaborative Classroom is an evidence-based literacy program designed to align with the Science of Reading and the GELN Early Literacy Essentials. It emphasizes comprehension, vocabulary, and writing while supporting foundational reading skills effectively.
- The 6-12 Social Studies, World Language, and ELA departments have all completed curriculum review days. These reviews focused on curriculum mapping using the Understanding by Design (UbD) framework. This backward design model emphasizes starting with the end goals of instruction and planning accordingly.

Professional Development:

- **New Teacher PD:** Our second New Teacher PD will be held on January 22nd. The session will focus on:
 - Enhancing student collaboration.
 - Integrating the Portrait of a Graduate into instructional practices.
 - Leveraging technology tools like SeeSaw and Canvas to meet diverse student needs effectively.

Grant Updates:

- This time of year is particularly busy for grants. We are finalizing allocations, submitting amendments, and preparing applications for new opportunities. An example of a new grant opportunity is the 27h grant. These funds, if secured, would significantly enhance our mentoring and induction program. This program is crucial for supporting new administrators and teachers as they transition into their roles, and the additional funds would allow us to provide more comprehensive support and training.



Engagement Opportunity:

- Seal of Biliteracy Awards: Tuesday, January 21st, 10:15 CHS Media Center
 - Additional Information from Rachel English, World Language Teacher:
Last spring, the World Language Department piloted the STAMP proficiency assessment with 40 Level 3 and 4 students. This assessment evaluated all four language skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking, to determine students' proficiency levels. From the assessment, 11 students achieved an Intermediate Mid level of proficiency, earning the *Global Seal of Biliteracy*.

Spanish 3: Gus Alafita, Hayley Hopkins, Clara Johnson, Chase Nichols, and Lauren Thompson

Spanish 4: Meghan Bareis, Anna Carter, Lindsay Favre, and Kate Krugh

We were also able to give this assessment to two students who attended bilingual schools prior to Chelsea Schools. Both earned the Global Seal of Biliteracy in their second languages: Nora Pelletier (Spanish) and Natalie Boos (German).

Gus Alafita, Anna Carter, and Kate Krugh also earned the *Michigan Seal of Biliteracy* by achieving an Intermediate High level of Spanish proficiency.

This is an amazing accomplishment for our students and a celebration of multilingualism! We are excited to offer this test to all Level 3 and 4 French and Spanish students and our Multilingual Learners.

Thank you for your continued support of our curriculum and instruction initiatives.

Respectfully,
Michelle Hilla, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Chelsea School District