

Curriculum Director Report

Testing

All state mandated testing is now complete.

High School Testing

This is the first year 9th and 10th graders were required to take the PSAT. This will serve as a baseline year for data for those grades.

Positive:

Mr. Strom said that the Juniors worked hard during the test preparation sessions. Hopefully that leads to better performance.

Concerns:

How do we do the preparation without study hall next year?

How do we prepare Freshman and Sophomores for PSAT 9 and PSAT 10 tests?

Testing next year is first day we come back from Spring Break.

Grades 3-8 Testing

Grades 3-8 went well except for a few minor issues with technology. Teachers reported that the students worked hard, but some said they saw a drop in effort on 3rd day.

Positives:

1. One of the positives this year is we had more teachers do the Test Nav and Test Online Training. This showed the students how to use Test Nav (App they take the test on) and all the different types of things they have to do on the test.
2. Grades 3-5 with Benchmark Reading Series got more practice citing evidence.

Reading:Concerns:

1. Typing skills are lacking for students in grade 3-8.
2. Writing part was put in the middle. This caused a few students to run out of time for remaining questions.
3. Students write less because of doing it on a computer..
4. Reading on a computer vs reading on paper.
5. Students have a hard time understanding what they are being asked to do.
6. Getting students to understand test vocabulary. Central Message vs Theme. Structure.

Math

Concerns:

1. Jr. High had 60 minutes and in previous years they had 80 minutes. We had some students run out of time.
2. Students have a hard time understanding what is being asked. 3rd grade said more words this time.
3. Students have a hard time applying their knowledge. The questions cover more than 1 standard.
4. Students have a hard time explaining how they got their answers. (Writing) Or they have to explain why someone's thinking is wrong.
5. Students don't answer all parts of the question. Example they have to write equation, solve the equation, and then explain their answer.
6. 3rd grade had a 4 step problem even though the standards mention a 2 step problem. Also 5th grade had an extremely difficult problem.

Science test

The science test had no technology issues. The 5th and 8th grades had new questions, and more of them. The 2020 Science test will count in terms of ESSA Designation on our school report cards.

Concerns:

1. Some of the content on 5th grade test was from previous grades standards.
2. Amount of time we are spending on Science in lower grades.
3. All we get is a score for the students and the grade. We don't get any information on where we did well, or where we struggled. This makes it hard to make improvements.
4. Our science textbooks were printed before the new science standards came out.