

Homedale School District #370

TO: Board of Trustees; Superintendent Rob Sauer
FROM: Amy Winters, HMS Principal
DATE: March 10, 2014
RE: Board of Trustees Report

EXPLORE Test Results: (This is the 8th grade version of the ACT)

88 out of 103 8th graders participated in this test, which is paid for by Gear Up. Students and parents were provided with a sheet explaining their student's scores and the type of high school and potential career field best suited for each student as predicted by current strengths. The following page contains an overview of the data.

The middle school is not surprised by the findings as they are closely related to how this class has done over the past few years on the ISATS. The good news is that the areas of weakness (Rhetorical Skills, Social Science, and Conflicting View Points) are those presently defined by the new Idaho Core Standards. Teachers have been working to incorporate these skills into their current curriculum. We don't currently offer a social science specific course.

One way the school plans to address the issue of Study Skills is with the new AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) college readiness program. We will receive training on AVID this summer. The program will also provide us with Post High school Planning opportunities in the absence of the Gear Up grant.

Our work with curriculum changes to reflect Idaho Core Standards will focus on the other four areas students indicated.

Winter Benchmark Testing:

Reading Comprehension (MAZE)				
	Percent Proficient	Percent Proficient	Percent Proficient	
	Winter 2012-13	Fall 2013-14	Winter 2013-14	Growth
5th	49.40%	56.80%	60.40%	3.60%
6th	76.10%	61.20%	66.00%	4.80%
7th	75.80%	74.70%	70.00%	-4.70%
8th	69.80%	76.40%	63.00%	-13.40%
Math Calculations & Applications (MCAP)				
	Percent Proficient	Percent Proficient	Percent Proficient	
	Winter 2012-13	Fall 2013-14	Winter 2013-14	Growth
5th	73.00%	63.60%	75.00%	11.40%
6th	75.80%	69.80%	56.00%	-13.80%
7th	78.80%	57.00%	72.00%	15.00%
8th	77.60%	35.20%	65.00%	29.80%

Unfortunately our benchmark testing doesn't look as good as it has in the past. We have pinpointed a few possible reasons: the classes that have gone backward are the classes for which we no longer have; Tier Intervention classes for struggling students. Students are also transitioning from Idaho State Standards to Idaho Core Standards; therefore, they are learning differently than they have in the past. The benchmark tests are still written in preparation for the ISAT. We will continue to monitor these groups for improvement. I cannot explain the large jump in math. It is not indicative of students' grades or past performance.

SBAC Update: (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium)

All middle school students will be taking the new tests throughout April and the first week of May. Teachers will spend the remaining two weeks before Spring Break providing students with opportunities to practice using the computer-generated tools and seeing sample questions in preparation for the test.

[Sample Performance Task Scoring Guides and Writing Rubrics](#)

All 5th and 7th graders will take the Science ISAT test this spring.

Media Center:

We now have a total of 20 iPads with cases for student use. We are hoping to fundraise for another 10 next year so we have a class set.

The box top competition raised over \$200 to purchase new books for the school. The focus is on non-fiction materials to support common core and books in Spanish to support our Hispanic students who are struggling to read in English.

Hats Off to Reading:

This is the second year we have combined the middle and elementary school's family reading night. Students who brought their parents received a grade-level book for free and got to participate in a variety of reading-related activities with teachers and students from both buildings.

