



Curriculum Highlights

Memo

To: Dr. Mary Whitrock, Board of Education
From: Christine Damm
Date: November, 2024
Re: Curriculum Department Highlights for November

- 1. Assessment Updates** – We are busily preparing for the upcoming state assessment cycle. The ACCESS for ELLs test window will open December 2 and run through January 31. RHS will be participating in online testing for the state ACT 11 March 26, followed by PreACT Secure for grades 9 and 10 on April 8 and 9. PreACT Secure scores predict how students will perform on the ACT when they reach 11th grade and their readiness for college-level coursework. The WI Forward Exam for students in grades 3-8 will take place late March and into April. Additionally, all students in grades K-3 will be screened in foundational literacy skills via aimswebPlus as part of the ACT 20 reading law. Any student who scores below the 25th percentile will be given additional diagnostic assessments to determine what further support may be required. If the screener and diagnostic assessments confirm a child is at risk, a Personalized Reading Plan (PRP), will be written and shared with the student's guardians. Progress in the specifically identified areas of literacy will be monitored and reported to parents approximately every ten weeks. Students in grades 4K-5 will be screened again during the spring window in late March or early April. As a reminder, RASD reading interventionists conducted a trial run of the aimswebPlus screener in October to familiarize themselves with the assessments, testing platform, and potential identification of students. In early December, districts throughout the state of Wisconsin will be required to screen all K-3 students for the first time as part of the ACT 20 requirements.
- 2. District/School Accountability Report Cards** –The public release of the 2023-24 district and school accountability report cards is planned for Tuesday, November 19. A press release highlighting the results will be sent out upon the state release and a message to all district families will also go out in Campus Messenger. Additionally, the results of the 2023-24 report cards will be posted on our district webpage.
- 3. Literacy Professional Development** – K-5 Elementary literacy teachers continued their learning around the shifts of literacy instruction. This teacher training is another required component to Wisconsin's ACT 20 literacy law. Teachers participated in a half day training on November 8 to learn more about the impacts of oral language development on early literacy. Prior to this learning day with our CESA 6 literacy partner, Heather Brown, all certified elementary teachers of literacy

completed the required COX Campus module training focusing on oral language development. Literacy leaders spent the afternoon with Heather Brown dissecting the latest updates regarding the required literacy screener and diagnostics and creating a visual flowchart to help guide our work.

4. **Schoolwide Title 1 Fall Family Meeting** – Jill Puhlmann-Becker, Tammy Fox and I held a Title 1 Fall Family Meeting during the evening of November 13 at the Ripon Public Library. Families from all three of our Schoolwide designated Title 1 elementary schools were invited to receive information about our Schoolwide Title 1 programs as well as Wisconsin’s ACT 20 reading law. Participants also had the opportunity to provide feedback about our Schoolwide Title 1 plans and ask questions. The information that was shared at this in-person meeting will be made available to parents and the public on our district website.

5. **EL Family Night** – Our EL teachers, Melanie Beahm, Dana Scott, Robin Vaughan and Yolanda Meincke-Reza will host our second EL family night of the school year on November 17. Families are invited to celebrate the upcoming holiday season with us at Route 23 from 1:00-3:00 pm. We are excited to once again enter an EL-themed tree in the Enchanted Forest at the Dickens of a Christmas community event, where we will display ornaments representing our EL families. We will also enjoy holiday food favorites shared by our EL families, along with a white elephant gift exchange. Families will also receive information regarding the upcoming ACCESS testing as well as upcoming school and community holiday events.

6. **Student Teacher Requests** – I have received several new student teacher requests for the second semester. To date, I have received two elementary student teacher requests from UW-Oshkosh. We welcome these requests as we continue to see a shortage of qualified educators to fill open positions. We look forward to welcoming and preparing these future educators under the supervision of our highly qualified educators.