



Curriculum Highlights

Memo

To: Dr. Mary Whitrock
From: Christine Damm
Date: September 2024
Re: Curriculum Department Highlights for September

- 1. Assessment Updates** – The assessment timeline for the 2024-25 school year, which includes specific dates for local benchmark and state assessments including the required 4K-3 literacy screener, has been finalized and attached to this month's teaching and learning reports. An assessment calendar has also been shared with staff to keep them informed of upcoming assessment dates. Testing dates may be subject to change and the Board will receive an update of any changes that may occur.
- 2. 4PS-5 Literacy Implementation and Required Training** – It was a busy summer preparing our 4K-5 teachers for the many changes in literacy instruction due to the enactment of ACT 20. While we are entering our second year of implementation of our new literacy resources, we continue to align our new learning of instructional practices with our instructional materials. We have also entered our first year of the required ACT 20 literacy training requirement. While 4K-5 teachers are working in collaborative teams to complete the bi-monthly training modules during our professional days, we will continue to partner with our Literacy Partners at CESA 6 to implement best practices in literacy instruction. The literacy training we have done over the past two years has provided a solid foundation in practices surrounding a more structured literacy approach.
- 3. K-8 Math Pilots** – All K-5 general elementary teachers have chosen to pilot the newest edition of Bridges math curriculum materials. While we have been implementing Bridges curriculum since 2019, updates to the Common Core Math Standards have prompted several revisions. Staff are excited about the revised scope and sequence and alignment to the updated math standards as well as enhancements to the visual models, workplaces and student discourse that the Bridges 3rd edition provides. Our 6-8 math department has also chosen to pilot the newly released CPM Inspiring Connections series. CPM has provided some great updates since our purchase of the Core Connections CPM curriculum in 2018. They recently released Inspiring Connections, which is aligned to the updated Math Standards (2021). This new series includes many enhanced features, including a student consumable so that they do not have to transfer all of their work, which can be a hangup for some. The teacher guide and student books are fully digital, but the students receive a mathematician's notebook to work through the problems. The

updated version also builds in even more opportunities for student discourse and differentiation. K-8 math is on-cycle for adoption for the 2025-26 school year. I will gather input from our K-8 math curriculum team throughout the year to make a recommendation for adoption for the 2025-26 school year.

4. **ACT 20 Updates**– The Literacy Leadership team including Jill Puhlmann-Becker, Tammy Fox, Jessi Johnson, Shawn Gartzke and Christine Damm, in collaboration with our CESA 6 Literacy Partners, have developed a plan to meet each of the requirements of ACT 20. A brief presentation will be shared by Christine Damm and Jill Puhlmann-Becker at this month’s Board meeting to provide the latest updates and a summary of the district’s plan for meeting ACT 20 requirements.
5. **Curriculum Development Update** – RASD Certified staff worked throughout the summer on various curriculum projects including training in new math resources (K-8), Responsive Classroom (4K-5) and Developmental Designs (6-12), as well as updating priority standards, assessments and units aligned to updated standards. Devotion of time towards curriculum development this summer provides days off on October 11 and January 20 professional days, which are designated for curriculum development. Additionally, elementary staff across the district spent the August 19 new curriculum day diving into the required literacy training modules. Elementary staff will continue to use the monthly PD days to complete the required literacy training and dig deeper into the shifts in literacy instruction defined by a more structured literacy approach.
6. **Back to School Professional Development Update** – The 2024-25 back to school agenda included professional development opportunities that brought our teams together in person to kickoff the new school year. Our new certified staff participated in training sessions in Bridges Math (4PS-5), PLTW (K-5) and worked with department level colleagues to get acquainted with their curriculum. Our August 26 district kickoff included welcoming new staff and recognizing many returning staff for their dedication and years of service to RASD. Staff then returned to their home buildings to participate in a refresher of the Responsive Classroom and Development Designs training launched this summer. Throughout the remainder of the inservice week, all district staff were immersed in safety and wellness training, analyzing spring assessment results to be used for continuous improvement, while also preparing their classrooms for open houses and the start of the new school year. Student orientation sessions were held August 29 and 30.
7. **New Teacher Training** – As part of our New Teacher/new to district orientation program, a safety training will be held after school on September 17. City of Ripon PD school resource officers, along with Chief of Police Bill Wallner, Brian Appleman, and Dr. Whitrock will provide education and training to acclimate them to our district’s safety protocol. Additional training focusing on Continuous Quality Improvement and other relevant topics for teachers new to our district will be presented at upcoming after school sessions this fall and spring. Our trained mentors, Principals, and Directors will also continue to support our new staff throughout the year as part of our onboarding and retention efforts.