

The Curriculum Splash

Curriculum and Instruction Department Newsletter

October, 2008

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment*Sylvia Méndez*

- ◆ C & I has a great team working collaboratively to meet the needs of our district. Our focus is on providing service to the school sites. The members of the team bring many years of expertise in their content focus.
- ◆ SB472 professional development in math: Over 50 teachers have received HM training on our new math adoption. The balance of the trainings is scheduled in 2 days in week 1, then 3 days in week 2. We want to thank Francis Whitney for being flexible in the scheduling of these trainings. The first focus is on unpacking the grade level math standards to ensure we are providing equal access to all of our students.
- ◆ The District SBC days on October 31, 2008 and January 12, 2009 are scheduled to focus on the Master Plan for English Learners and implementation strategies using our GLAD, Carousel, and Systematic ELD trainings.
- ◆ Math textbooks for K-8 have been the major priority in our department since August 1st. The HM California Math and CGP materials have been arriving at the school sites.
- ◆ The Proposal for our timeline for English Language Arts and ELD textbook adoption is to extend the timeline within the required 18 months allotment. We will be sending out information regarding this process.

Mathematics*Melissa Christie*

The district math department is led by Math Coordinator Melissa Christie and supported by two math coaches Suzannah Young and Tammy Mullin. This department collaborates with classroom math teachers in grades five through Algebra 1 who are participating in PVUSD'S CaMSP math grant. The coaches work with teachers individually as well as in professional development settings to ensure improvement in student understanding of mathematics.

The math team is also available to assist schools in implementing the new textbook materials and facilitating the SuccessMaker intervention program. Please feel free to contact us for additional support.

Benchmark Assessments:

- ◆ New benchmark assessments will be created based on the newly adopted textbooks.
- ◆ Grades 6-8 take 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Quarter benchmarks.
- ◆ Grades K-5 take 1st and 2nd Trimester benchmarks.
- ◆ The window for administering the tests falls between the last week of the quarter or trimester and the first week of the next quarter or trimester.

SuccessMaker:

- ◆ Running reports regularly is important to properly implement the program and address student needs.
- ◆ Tech Services is offering a reports training on 10/27 from 4:00–6:00 PM. www.pvusd.net/staffdev

You can still sign up for our new CaMSP math grant for 3rd grade through Algebra 1! Contact Melissa Christie.

English Language Arts*Caroline Calero***Writing:**

- ◆ All schools K-8 are using the Step Up to Writing Rubric!
- ◆ The data will be instantly available in Data Director. It is set to collect not only the overall score, but the scores for each trait (organization, content, style, grammar/mechanics). This will enable you to really analyze writing assessment data in a timely manner and set learning goals for your students.
- ◆ Writing is on the radar district wide! Your site received the 2008-2009 Writing Assessment Binder with protocols, rubrics, and guides to support your site with writing assessment.

Benchmark Assessments:

- ◆ They are administered four times a year and are indicated on your pacing calendars.
- ◆ The assessment windows are tied to the pacing guide rather than the reporting window.
- ◆ They include the writing prompt (if indicated on the pacing calendar).
- ◆ They are designed to provide snapshots of student achievement levels to monitor progress toward end of the year grade level standards
- ◆ They are not formative in nature.
- ◆ They are designed to provide data to teams of teachers so that they can develop learning goals and collaborate to increase student achievement.
- ◆ More frequent formative assessments should be selected by the team to monitor progress on specific learning goals and to inform report cards.

Gifted and Talented Education*Lyn Olson*

- ◆ We have administered ability tests (Ravens and OLSAT, grades 4–6) and conducted GATE Placement Committee meetings at all elementary sites.
- ◆ Differentiation coaching and support for classroom teachers is ongoing and teachers are encouraged to ask for our support!
- ◆ GATE Teacher Talks, Student Meetings, Parent meetings and in-services have been scheduled at most schools.
- ◆ We're supporting teachers with Integrated Thematic Units with extension activity menus (ITUs) for Houghton Mifflin ELA. All theme ITUs for grades 4–6 can be found at our website, www.pvusdgate.net
- ◆ Grades 1–3 HM Extension Menus are available by contacting the GATE office.
- ◆ GATE Identification and Student Lists will be sent to teachers and parents by October.
- ◆ The GATE Liaison Network is up and running and will participate in a 4-hour training on Saturday Dec. 6. (Stipend paid for by the MAIA Foundation) 13 of our elementary schools are represented, and we are seeking teachers interested in serving as Liaisons at the remaining 3 schools.
- ◆ 10 Science Fair Coordinators are being recruited (\$600 stipend paid for by MAIA Foundation). We still have stipends left!
- ◆ GATE Parent/Teacher Workshops are being offered two evenings: Nov. 6 at HA Hyde and again on Nov.20 at Mar Vista. (6:30–8:30) Guest Speaker will be Marte Mathews, MFT, specializing in gifted children and their families.

Textbooks*Rich Arellano & Marla Almaraz*

- ◆ Contact Marla Almaraz regarding funding information on the purchase of new materials and the status on existing orders.
- ◆ Any requests for new textbooks and related materials should be emailed to Curriculum & Instruction with proof of increased enrollment.
- ◆ Please plan on a visit from Rich to count and inventory all district provided materials at your site. We want to maximize the use of all materials before placing new orders.
- ◆ Please direct any textbook concerns or issues to:
Rich at 728-6360 richard_arellano@pvusd.net or
Marla at 786-2100 ext. 2572 marla_almaraz@pvusd.net.

Curriculum & Instruction

786-2365 (voice)

786-1317 (FAX)

All emails are @pvusd.net

Sylvia Mendez
Director of C-I
786-2365
[sylvia_mendez@](mailto:sylvia_mendez@pvusd.net)



Caroline Calero
ELA Coordinator
786-2100 x2565
[caroline_calero@](mailto:caroline_calero@pvusd.net)



Melissa Christie
Mathematics Coordinator
786-2100 x2577
[melissa_christie@](mailto:melissa_christie@pvusd.net)



Lyn Olson
GATE Coordinator
786-2100 x2580
[lyn_olson@](mailto:lyn_olson@pvusd.net)



Ted Altenberg
GATE TOSA
786-2100 x2581
[edward_altenberg@](mailto:edward_altenberg@pvusd.net)



Tammy Mullin
Mathematics TOSA
786-2100 x2569
[tamra_mullin@](mailto:tamra_mullin@pvusd.net)



Suzannah Young
Mathematics TOSA
786-2100 x2566
[suzannah_young@](mailto:suzannah_young@pvusd.net)



Rich Arellano
Textbook Warehouse
728-6360 (FAX: 728-6205)
[richard_arellano@](mailto:richard_arellano@pvusd.net)



Marla Almaraz
Administrative Assistant
786-2100 x2572
[marla_almaraz@](mailto:marla_almaraz@pvusd.net)



Christina Oakden
Administrative Assistant
786-2100 x2567
[christina_oakden@](mailto:christina_oakden@pvusd.net)



Zaida Raygoza
Administrative Assistant
786-2100 x2571
[zaida_raygoza@](mailto:zaida_raygoza@pvusd.net)