



The Curriculum Splash

Curriculum and Instruction Department Newsletter
April, 2009

Curriculum and Instruction

Sylvia Méndez, Director

- ◆ Finally, it appears like all of our adopted math materials in English and Spanish have arrived. We understand how difficult it has been to continue to provide high quality standards based instruction without all of the materials available to teachers. If there are still materials missing please have your Textbook coordinator contact Rich Arellano at the Textbook warehouse.
- ◆ In preparation for the CST, just a reminder to use the resources we have available: **released questions** at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/css05rtq.asp> and the **CST blueprints** at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/blueprints.asp>
- ◆ The PVUSD Civic Center art show is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29th. We have selected the work to be displayed and it is now being framed and hung in the beautiful library, on the third floor of the courtrooms, and in the mayor's office. Students selected will receive an invitation to attend. We hope to see you there.
- ◆ Based on input from site teachers we continue to make revisions on the digital report cards to meet the needs of teachers, students and parents.
- ◆ If you need assistance with Data Team implementation at your site, please contact Melissa Christie or Caroline Calero. We can guide you through the process and facilitate the development of formative assessments.
- ◆ On May 18 and 19 we will convene a group of teacher representatives from every school to identify the Power Standards, K-12, in ELA and math.

Mathematics

Melissa Christie, Math Coordinator

Math Coaches Suzannah Young and Tammy Mullin and math coordinator, Melissa Christie are available to collaborate with classroom teachers to improve student achievement in mathematics. We are available to support you in the following areas. Feel free to contact us.

Math Benchmark Assessments:

- ◆ Thank you for the feedback we have received on the math benchmark assessments. We are continuing to improve the assessments, and would like to encourage you to send via pony any suggestions you may have. Please address them to Melissa Christie, Curriculum and Instruction Department.

CGP Benchmark Assessments:

- ◆ On Tuesday, February 24th a meeting was held at Lakeview Middle School to develop third quarter benchmark assessments. Thanks to all the teachers who participated in this collaborative effort.

Math Resources:

- ◆ Problems of the Month and MARS tasks are on the Silicon Valley Math Initiative website. These are no longer password protected.
www.noycefdn.org/math.

County Math Contest:

- ◆ Students in grades 5–8 at many elementary and middle schools are preparing to participate in the annual Santa Cruz County Math Contest, taking place Saturday May 2nd at Aptos HS. For a second year, the MAIA Foundation is funding a bus to bring Watsonville students to the contest.

English Language Arts

Caroline Calero, ELA Coordinator

Writing:

- ◆ Goals for the 08–09 school year:
 - ✓ District wide use of common rubrics
 - ✓ District wide use of common prompts/genres
 - ✓ District wide data entry (Data Director) for writing scores of each trait (organization, voice, content, conventions)
- ◆ Writing survey results showed that we did an overall very good job meeting our 08–09 writing goals.
- ◆ The 08–09 goals were just a starting point for the work ahead with writing. We will have an end of the year process for refining the 08–09 goals and will be looking ahead to 09–10 goals. Due to our work this year, we are in a good position to move forward and address writing at a deeper level.
- ◆ Results of the district wide writing survey were reviewed at Curriculum Council. The identified next steps for district level attention were:
 - ✓ Scoring protocols used as a guide for scoring with common district rubric
 - ✓ Modified double blind scoring protocols used to calibrate scoring and gather anchor papers

CST Trends Regarding Writing:

- ◆ Many data teams have focused on Writing Strategies for CST prep and their data team cycles coming up.
- ◆ Since we have scored low on Writing Strategies district wide and since Writing Strategies represents a large percentage on the blueprint, it is no wonder our teams of professionals have identified it to work on in the upcoming weeks!

Gifted and Talented Education

Lyn Olson and Ted Altenberg

www.pvusdgate.net

- ◆ GATE Referrals/Screening forms are due April 20
K–2 Grade Teachers: Please fill out a pink referral form for students whom are displaying gifted characteristics.
3rd Grade Teachers: Thank you for sending in your blue GATE referral forms early, please get them in if you haven't already.
4th–6th Grade Teachers: Please refer students who have not already been identified (because they were overlooked in the past or because they are new)
- ◆ GATE testing will take place at all elementary schools after the CST. When we receive blue referrals we will send teachers "Permission to Test" forms.
- ◆ Check out this great new website addition for Choice Boards and Extension Menus links for all subjects and all grades at www.pvusdgate.net/choiceboards.php
- ◆ GATE Advisory Council, April 30, 6:30–8:00, Board Room
- ◆ Extended Learning is looking for interested teachers to teach a GATE class at each school's Summer School program. Interested teachers can contact Extended Learning.
- ◆ The California Association for the Gifted cordially invites K-12 teachers to a workshop on differentiated instruction methods on Saturday, May 9th from 12:30–4:30 PM at Silver Creek High School in San Jose. Cost is \$20.00 for conference and materials. Contact GATE or visit www.GiftedCalifornia.org for more info.

Textbooks

Rich Arellano & Marla Almaraz

- ◆ Please make sure all consumable materials (Practice Books and Soft Textbooks) are returned to your site Textbook representative. By carrying over materials into next year we can extend the life of our resources.
- ◆ Inventories of unused Houghton Mifflin Reading Practice Books at sites have saved our district over \$20,000! These are materials that have accumulated over the years, and must be used for the 09–10 school year.
- ◆ Please keep Resource Kit and other supplemental materials together. They are expensive to replace and sites will be held responsible for replacement of lost or damaged materials that have been provided by the district.
- ◆ As the fiscal year comes to a close we need feedback as to what items sites are still missing so we can expedite those materials and close the purchase orders. Items missing from shipments must be responded to immediately to receive replacement from the publisher. The textbook warehouse will not provide materials that the publisher shows as shipped and signed for. You can contact Rich or Marla with those issues.

Curriculum & Instruction

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