



The Latest Buzz in Curriculum & Educational Services

Achieving Student Excellence Together

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A Message from Ryan Holman

“We are dedicated to continually improving instruction and student achievement through excellence in collaboration, staff development, and educational support.” All of us at the Curriculum & Educational Services Department have committed ourselves to making our purpose statement become a reality and help realize the district vision. By aligning our core values (focus on students, high-quality service and support, teamwork, achievement) with those of the district, we hope to provide the assistance to staff members that is necessary to maximize student success.

The intent of this newsletter is for it to be a monthly resource that supports everything that has been mentioned. Let us know how we can improve it so that everyone in the district is *Achieving Student Excellence Together*.

Testing News

- The California Department of Education (CDE) has created a new website to help parents and teachers gain a better understanding of the California Standards Tests (CSTs) and other aspects of the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program. The website address is www.starsamplequestions.org.
- The CST and California Modified Assessment (CMA) writing assessment for 4th grade has been eliminated for 2009-10.
- The CMA multiple-choice test is now available for grade 9 for English Language Arts (ELA), grade 10 for Life Science, and grade 7-11 for Algebra I.
- The 2008-09 Academic Performance Index (API) reports are scheduled to be revised in May, 2010 to reflect the CMA results for grades 6-8.
- The results are in for the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) administered to students in grades 11 & 12 in November, 2009—47% of students passed the ELA portion compared to 45% in November, 2008 and 59% of students passed the mathematics portion compared to 37% in November, 2008.

Keeping up with Staff Development

Reading/Writing Workshop Expands & Goes Digital

The next Reading/Writing Workshop will be on Thursday, February 25 from 3:30-6:00 p.m. in the Staff Development Center. All teachers are invited to join in the creation of innovative lessons to teach reading and writing. There are always raffle prizes and refreshments.

Math Fun! Workshop

The next two Math Fun! Workshops will be on Thursday, February 11 and Wednesday, February 24 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the Staff Development Center. There will be games, refreshments, and fun. Teachers will be able to take strategies and materials from the workshop back to their classrooms.

RTI² Implementation 3-5

The RTI² process is being implemented in third through fifth grades.

Traveling Road Show Returns

Reading comprehension, vocabulary, and student engagement strategies will be modeled in the classrooms.

Projects Update

GATE Screening

GATE screening will soon be underway at our elementary and middle school sites. The CoGAT screening test will be given on the following dates:

BM Feb 9 & 10	VV Feb 11
HER Jan 26 & 27	WW Feb 3
PHE Feb 18	PM March 10
PH March 11	QV March 4

School & Comprehensive Safety Plans

The Board will review School Plans and School Safety Plans at the January 26th meeting. To view the plans, please visit the district website.

Student Page on District Website

We are beginning to work on the Student Page for our website. This will be a page students in our district can log on to. If you have any ideas for what should be on that page, please share them with Kathy Abbott via email or at ext. 7107 at the district office.

Technology Tidbits

AERIES Training Reminder

If you signed up for an Aeries Query training session, please remember to attend on the day that you have been assigned. If you have any questions, please direct them to Chris Brown at extension 7153.

Interim Assessments

Our next round of assessments will begin March 1. This will include all sites and all grade levels.

AimsWeb

AimsWeb was re-rostered on January 5th; however, all changes received are processed daily.

EL Connection

CELDT

- So far during the 2009/10 school year 1110 English Language learners have taken the CELDT (California English Language Development Test). The C & ES Department will mail official results home once they are received.

GLAD

Linda McInerney is out at sites spreading “GLAD” tidings! Guided Language Acquisition Development (GLAD) is an instructional model of clear practical strategies. Linda is available to:

- Demonstrate GLAD lessons at elementary sites. *Other grade levels to come later.
- Give “More than 5 Less Than 10” staff presentations with quick (usable) strategies.
- Subject matter GLAD trainings for secondary sites.

And finally, a big shout out to the SHS English teachers who are embracing GLAD strategies.

Book Club

Meetings will be held on Mondays from 4:15—5:15 pm. Books reviewed will be:

February 1—*Clipping Their Own Wings*

February 22, March 1, March 8—*Becoming Naomi Leon* and *Esperanza Rising*