

# NEWS FLASH



December 2011

Medina City Schools  
**DEPARTMENT OF  
INSTRUCTION**

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## State Assessment Program Development

Ohio has joined the PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) consortium for the development of our new state assessment program. Ohio joins 24 other states to facilitate the implementation of the Common Core in Math and Language Arts and develop associated assessments. These assessments are due for implementation in the 2014/15 school year. Current information is telling us that these tests will all be online. To learn more about PARCC and its work with the Common Core and assessment development you can check out the website: <http://parconline.org/>

## PDC Update:

Staff development grants were awarded to the following individuals and projects. Congratulations!

1. Christy Korkan, Jodi Dobben and Jim Korkan for work on integrating social studies and science standards into their guided reading program.
2. Terri Noe and Pam Gemmer for the development of Formative Assessments in math.
3. Joanna Cavey, Julie Garafolo, Kelly Martin, and Tricia Hibler for their analysis of the new math Common Core and how the integration of technology could support teachers with their implementation of the Common Core.

The second round of grants is due to the Department of Instruction by February 1, 2012. Grants are located on the DOI webpage under Professional Development.

## DRA's

Teachers are reminded that first trimester DRA results should have been entered into Performance Tracker by Nov. 17th. Winter DRA results should be posted by March 5<sup>th</sup>. If there are any problems or questions contact Sheila.

## Common Assessments

Middle school common assessments are progressing well. Teachers are reminded to follow the schedule. If you have a conflict with the schedule or are having difficulty, please notify Sheila.

All math (6-8) and Science (6&8) pretests should be completed by now.

Upcoming in Nov. and Dec are:

Grade 7: Science Weather

Grade 6-8: Social Studies

Grade 8: Physical Science @ Claggett

**Course of Study Development for Math** is going well. Upcoming meetings include:

Alg II	Dec. 7	Grade 8	Jan. 26
K	Dec. 13	Grade 7	Feb. 7
Grade 3	Dec. 15	Grade 6	Feb. 9
Grade 1	Jan. 12		

Teachers are reminded to continue to check out the ODE for updates on Curriculum and Assessment. ODE has chosen PARCC as their assessment consortium. Also check out the model curriculum for your content area as well as other content related sites for updates and resources.

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## Resident Educator

Although we do not have any resident educators this year in Medina, we need to keep a close eye on what is happening at the state level. The resident educator license is being granted to students graduating from college with a teaching degree. The license is for four years and includes participation in a 4 year program which entails having a mentor at least for the first year, and then participation in a professional learning community type scenario for years 2-4. At the conclusion of year 3, the resident educator must complete a formal assessment (yet to be determined by the state). In order to mentor, teachers must be state certified mentors. This entails a two day workshop. Interested teachers should watch STARS if interested in becoming certified. There may be summer opportunities this year.

## Elementary Standards-Based Report Card

This year ALL elementary students are receiving a standards-based report card for each trimester. Please refer any comments received from colleagues as well as students and parents so that we can continue to improve this process.

## Atomic Learning

Our school has taken a big step in integrating technology into our classrooms. Atomic Learning is a key partner in our dedication to providing the highest quality technology training resources available.

Our subscription to Atomic Learning includes:

- Tech Integration Projects: Lesson Accelerators
- Workshops on emerging tech topics
- 50,000 step by step technology tutorials
- Access for staff, students and their families 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

To get started, go to [www.AtomicLearning.com](http://www.AtomicLearning.com) and log in with the following username and password:

User Name: smithj@mcsOH.org (email address)

Password: mcsOH

We encourage you to use it as a resource for yourself, integrate it into your classroom, and invite your students to use it from home.

**Speak-Up 2011** is open now through December 23rd. Speak Up is your way to have your voice – and the voice of all education stakeholders – impact local, state and national policies and programs on education and technology. In these challenging budget times, Speak Up is more important than ever. Be a part of the conversation and join the thousands of Students, Parents and Educators who have already participated in Speak Up 2011.

To take the survey yourself or have your students take the survey, please visit:

[www.speakup4schools.org/speakup2011](http://www.speakup4schools.org/speakup2011)

and access the online surveys using our secret word password: medinabees. Please contact Stacy Hawthorne with questions.

## Course of Study Development for Science

Grade 5	Dec. 8	Grade 8	Feb. 1
Grade 6	Jan. 24	Biology	Feb. 8
Grade 7	Jan. 25	Environ/Astronomy	Feb. 15
Chemistry/Physics	Jan. 31	Essential Science	March 8