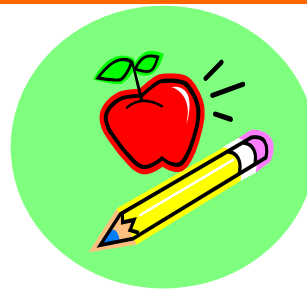


NEWS FLASH



January 2012

Medina City Schools
**DEPARTMENT OF
INSTRUCTION**

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Medina's honeyCOMB Programming

The committee is continuing to meet and plan for the 2012–2013 school year. We hope to have a new catalogue available by the end of April or May so classes can begin over the summer. Thank you to all of the wonderful district leaders who took the challenge and helped develop sessions for their colleagues. Stay tuned for more information in early March.

Ohio's New Generation of Assessments

We will try and get you the information on what is happening at ODE, but much is still in the development stage. This is what we know:

- There will be two sets of assessments – those developed with the PARCC Consortium (www.parcconline.org) based on the Common Core for Language Arts and Mathematics and those developed by Ohio for Science and Social Studies. In ODE's current informational PowerPoint they use the words "WE HOPE" after the line about the development of Science and Social Studies. The assessments are proposed to be operational by the 2014–15 school year.
- July 2011 HB 153 changes eliminate the requirement of a Senior Project, but a national standardized graduation assessment and a series of end of course exams are still in law for the H.S. There is not a given date for implementation.
- Assessments are to be online with "timely" results but will also have constructed response and performance-based tasks that will be handscored.
- College and career readiness is the goal.
- Data for growth measures or Value Added is to be included.

March 6 Early Release / Late Stay

We are working with building administrators, department chairs, course of study committee representatives and various departments to plan for March 6th. A primary focus will be the roll-out of the district courses of study in Mathematics and Science. It is truly the only date we have available to do this district-wide either this year or the beginning of next year. For all Special Education staff there also will be a legal update and IEP training.

Elementary Winter DRA Results – Should be entered by March 5th. Middle school SRI should be completed by February 28th.

Math Course of Study Update

Teachers will have the opportunity to look over the courses of study that are finished on March 6th. Sheila has met twice with each elementary grade level committee and is in the process of typing the courses of study. One elementary representative from each grade level will meet on February 7th to look over the courses of study to identify any gaps or misalignment, plan the roll-out to teachers on March 6th and to meet with an Everyday Math Technology representative to look at their technology component. Sheila will also be holding an informal Q&A session at Fenn Room 13 on March 20th for any K-2 teacher and March 21st for any 3-5 teacher from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Anyone is welcome to attend if you have questions about the new COS or just want to listen.

Remaining Course of Study Meetings Are:			
Grade 8	Jan. 26	Integrated I/II	Feb. 23
Elementary Final	Feb. 7	Integrated III/IV	Feb. 28
Grade 6	Feb. 9	Applied Math	March 1
Calc / Pre Calc	Feb. 14	Essential Math	March 8
Grade 7	Feb. 22	Impact 5 / Prog. 6 & 7	March 14

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Elementary Science Course of Study Update

After the Elementary Science Course of Study review on March 6th, Early Release Day, science teachers in grades K-5 may have questions that need clarification or want to look at their science resources and materials more in depth. If so, Mitch will be available for an informal Q&A about the resources and the course of study on Tuesday, March 27th, for grades K-2 science teachers and Wednesday, March 28th, for grades 3-5 science teachers. The meeting will be held at Canavan from 3:30-5:00 p.m. in Room 26.

Common Assessments

Blake is piloting a 3rd grade online math and 5th grade science common assessment. If any other building or teacher is interested, please contact Sheila.

Approximate Dates for MS Common Assessments for January-March			
Language Arts 6-8	Jan. 4-21	8 th SRI	Feb. 21
7 th Science Ecosystems	Jan. 24-31	Math 6	Feb. 28
SRI Grade 6	Feb. 1-4	Math 7	March 7
7 th Science Cells	Feb. 7	Math 8	March 14
7 th SRI	Feb. 14	7 th Science Genetics	March 14

Teacher Opportunities

WOW National Association for Gifted Children Webinars for Teachers for just \$29 per session. Click on this link www.nagc.org/wow.aspx for more information on sessions available and how to register. The first webinar, "Assessments for Measuring Student Learning Outcomes," is February 1st at 7:00 p.m.

Assessment for Advanced Math Placement at Elementary and Junior High Level

- 4th grade math assessment for 5th grade advanced math placement decisions will be conducted during the weeks of March 12-23 by the building school psychologists who will work together with the principal and 4th grade teachers to schedule testing.
- 5th grade math assessments for 6th grade advanced math placements will be conducted during the weeks of March 26-30 by the Advanced Math 5 teacher in the building.
- 6th grade math assessments for 7th grade advanced math placement will be conducted during the week of March 12-16 by the 6th grade math teachers.

NBC Learn is now in Blackboard!

NBC Learn is the education arm of NBC News and represents a new way to engage students and teachers in the classroom and to reach the nation's goals of creating 21st century digital learners.

NBC Learn K-12 offers thousands of videos and other resources covering topics from early American history to the modern day global news. News footage, commentary, historical documents and mini-documentaries bring events to life in the classroom. The content is updated almost daily from the many platforms of NBC News, so students can connect the events of the past with the events of today as they unfold.

The state-of-the-art cue card platform is a media player and online textbook that can be saved in a playlist, shared, printed, downloaded and easily incorporated into presentations, projects and lesson plans.

To access NBC Learn, log into Blackboard and select Browse NBC Archives from the Tools Module on your My Institution page. You can search for content by topic or by state standard using the link on the top.