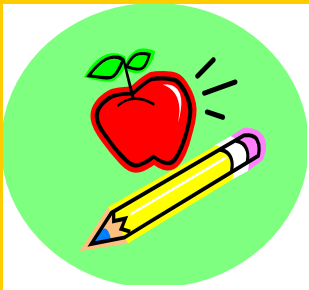


NEWS FLASH

September 2011

Medina City Schools
DEPARTMENT OF
INSTRUCTION

Lori Chandler
Sheila Allen
Stacy Hawthorne
Michelle Keller
Laurie Hykes



Welcome to the 2011-2012 School Year

It has been a fast start, but we appreciate the way this district works as a team to share resources/instructional strategies and expertise to maintain our focus on student learning.

We have a couple of informational items to share. First, attached are the specific dates for OAA, OGT and Terra Nova testing this year. Please make sure you have them marked and save room for make-up testing.

Staff Development Leave Grant

Just a reminder, the grant is on the Department of Instruction web page. The first due date is **October 1**. All grants will be reviewed and approved by the the new district Professional Development Committee. More information on that group and plans will be coming out soon.

Mathematics Course of Study/

New Standards Roll Out

Sheila Allen will be working with the Mathematics courses of study this year. Teachers will rewrite their courses of study in Math grades K-12. We will use this year to lay out our transition to the new standards. Teachers will teach with the former standards this year and begin using the new standards next year. The whole-day meetings will be held at the K-Center Tech Lab with Elementary beginning at 8:30 and JH/HS beginning at 7:45. Teachers should bring their textbooks and any other course-related materials to help in the writing of the courses of study.

The upcoming meetings for September-November are listed below – the principals and department chairpersons have selected the committee members to attend these meetings. You will receive confirmation from Laurie Hykes to remind you to put in for a substitute.

September 13 Grade 3 (day 2, first was Aug. 23)
September 22 Grade 2 (day 2, first was Aug. 23)
September 27 Grade 5 day 1
October 4 Grade 4 day 1
October 11 Algebra I (JH and MS)

October 20 K-1
October 25 Grade 4 day 2
November 1 Geometry (JH and MS)
November 16 Algebra II (HS)
November 17 Grade 5 day 2

The Medina City Schools Assessment Schedule 2011-2012 (Testing make-ups can go into the second week)		
Grade Level	Testing Type	Dates
3	Reading	October 4, 2011
3 & 4	Reading	April 24, 2012
5	Reading	April 25, 2012
3 & 4	Math	April 26, 2012
5	Math	April 27, 2012
5	Science	April 30, 2012
6,7,8	Reading	April 24, 2012
6,7,8	Math	April 26, 2012
8	Science	April 30, 2012
10	All OGT	March 12-23, 2012
4	Terra Nova & <u>InView</u>	January 23-27, 2012
6	Terra Nova & <u>InView</u>	January 9-13, 2012

Formative Assessment Teams

We have our Formative Assessment teams from the Junior Highs and High School in place for the 2011-2012 school year. They will be receiving training from Bob Holman during September, October and December.

NEWS FLASH

Performance Tracker Update

- 1) Sheila Allen (ext. 3077) and Stacy Hawthorne (ext. 3078) will now be the contact persons for Performance Tracker, including password issues. allens@mcsoh.org hawthors@mcsoh.org
- 2) DRAs are set up in Performance Tracker for the 2011-2012 school year. Teachers are reminded that the information should be entered into Performance Tracker by Nov. 11 (Fall), February 27 (Winter) and May 30 (Spring).

Report Card Update

Sheila Allen and Karen Humphrey are finalizing changes in the K-5 report cards. Further updates will be made available in the next issue of Teacher Talk.

- 1) Teachers are reminded that if they want to change shading for their entire building, to contact Sheila ASAP. It is best if Sheila does it, otherwise teachers will have to do it for each and every student one at a time.
- 2) Also, please note: Comments will need to be typed into the report card. Although the drop down menu will still allow you to select a comment by number, these WILL NOT print on the actual report card, so PLEASE DO NOT USE THE DROP DOWN COMMENT MENU.
- 3) Teachers are to use only **1, 2, 3, /, -** or **+** on the report cards. Other symbols are available, but teachers should NOT use them.

Ohio Science Standards and Model Curriculum

This year, the designated grade-level building representatives will be writing the course of study to align with the new Ohio Science Standards in grades K-12. Grades K-3 and 9 will be adopting new materials also. The goal is for teachers to understand what the standards are and to become familiar with how to teach them. The Model Curriculum is a great tool to look at resources to teach science through inquiry in a problem-based authentic learning way.

Mitch Keller is coordinating the development of our Science Course of Study with the new standards.

<u>Elementary Dates:</u>	<u>Junior High and High School Dates:</u>
K – Sept. 20	Grade 6 – Jan 24
Grade 1 – Sept. 29	Grade 7 – Jan. 25
Grade 2 – Sept. 8 and Oct. 6	Grade 8 – Feb. 1
Grade 3 – Oct. 13 and Nov. 15	Grade 9 – Physical Science – Nov. 17
Grade 4 – Dec. 1	Chemistry, H Chemistry, Physics – Jan 31
Grade 5 – Dec. 8	Biology, H Biology – Feb. 8
	Environmental Science, Astronomy, Oceanography – Feb. 15
	Essential Science – March 8

Web 2.0 Tool

Looking for an easy way to grab your student's attention? Check out www.xtranormal.com

Xtranormal is an easy way to create animated videos to introduce a topic or engage students. Simply pick your characters, setting, and type in your dialogue and Xtranormal does the rest. Educators can get 5000 free Xtranormal points (enough to create at least 10 free videos) by submitting a request on the Xtranormal support page with your username and proof of your status as an educator, most of the time a link to your website is sufficient. Give it a try!

County Collaboration in Action – Master Teacher Information

This year we will be teaming up with the other Medina County School Districts to streamline the process and workload. Connie Kubis will be sending out information in the next few weeks. Stay tuned.