

## **Curriculum and Instruction: Grades 6-12**

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Board of Education Report – April 2016

The curriculum office continues to work on the initiatives of the district with a focus on enhancing student achievement. This report will update the Board on recent work, its purpose and its outcomes.

### **Accuplacer**

During the summer, when we realized that some of our seniors were not yet eligible to graduate because they had not met one of the new exit test requirements, we purchased the ability to administer approximately 100 Accuplacer tests. This Accuplacer exam is one of the alternative assessments that seniors can use to demonstrate proficiency and meet the state testing requirement. Also, since these are the same tests that the Rowan College at Gloucester County requires for admission and placement, having the test available to our students has been quite helpful. Students have been taking advantage of the test availability to demonstrate readiness for college. In addition, through Shmoop, students can practice to improve their score. Students do not have to fear a visit to the college any longer; they can arrive having completed the battery of tests that were administered in our building.

### **Education Proficiency Plan**

There still exists a portfolio process for students to use to demonstrate academic proficiency if they were unable to score at the level identified on one of the testing instruments. Unlike portfolios of the past, each school was asked to create PARCC-like test segments, known as *Constructed Response Tasks* to have students demonstrate alternative measures to demonstrate a graduation requirement. We participated in a workshop sponsored by the Gloucester County Department of Education in order to work with other school districts to create and gain approval for the needed *Constructed Response Tasks*. The students needed to complete four math tasks and four literacy reading and writing tasks. Students who needed only math or only literacy did not complete both sets, but instead only the one for which he or she lacked a proficient testing score. Some students completed all eight tasks. The evaluated responses were collected and placed in an individual portfolio. We were the first district to complete this process and await approval from the county. We have plenty of time to resubmit, should we need to do so for any reason.

### **AP Redesign Scholarships**

AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC and AP World History have all been redesigned by the College Board. Working with Mr. Snelling and Miss Bourquin, we submitted grant applications and both of these teachers won scholarships to the summer training that will prepare teachers for this new design. Sarah Johnston won a Fellows scholarship worth \$1000 towards the Summer Institute for AP Music Theory. One difficulty that we are working to overcome is the challenge of how we can accept these scholarships due to the tax implications that their payment plan seems to require of the recipients.

### **AP Meetings**

AP teachers met twice this year to discuss the methods each uses to achieve student mastery of the content. In addition, the group met for training in the use of Shmoop, a site students use to take practice tests and review key elements of the AP curriculum. Teachers met individually with the Supervisors of Curriculum and Instruction to discuss pacing and alignment to his or her submitted and approved AP Syllabus.

### **AP Computer Science Principles**

Mr. Ford will attend an AP Summer Institute to learn the requirements for the newest AP course offered by the College Board – AP Computer Science Principles. This course requires a portfolio submission as well as a written test to demonstrate mastery of material. Mr. Ford is expecting to learn about the best materials and methods that teachers who have piloted the course have used.

### **Woodbury Junior-Senior High School Store**

As I write, Mrs. Dare is accepting applications and interviewing candidates to work at the soon-to-be-opened school store. The room is being transformed with shelving and cases in order to display inventory. The store will be open during all lunch periods and after school. Mrs. Dare hopes that the school store will grow to serve students by remaining open during activities. Students who participate in the school store will also apply to be members of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA).

### **21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Grant**

Together with Lindsey Wilhelmi, we submitted a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Grant with a more limited scope, to serve students in grades six through ten and their families. The 21st CCLC initiative is a federal funding source dedicated to afterschool programs. Grants support afterschool programs that provide the following services to students: Academic enrichment activities that can help students meet achievement standards; A broad array of additional services designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program, such as counseling programs, art, music, and recreation programs, technology education programs, and character education programs; and Literacy and related educational development services to the families of children who are served in the program. We are keeping our fingers crossed in hopes that we are successful.

### **American Chemical Society -Hach High School Chemistry Grant**

Jen Lee, Woodbury High School Chemistry teacher, researched and found an organization that enables schools to purchase science equipment. The American Chemical Society (ACS) awards grants to high school chemistry teachers in support of ideas that enhance classroom learning, foster student development, and reveal the wonders of chemistry. Together, we applied and intend to implement inquiry based laboratory investigations using the NSTA Press Book, Argument Driven Inquiry in Chemistry, a book we already own. The money will allow us to purchase chemicals and lab equipment in order to implement more of these experiments using the model described in the book. We shall see how this application goes.

### **AVID School of Distinction**

The Junior-Senior High School is very proud to announce that in March 2016 we received the honor of being named an AVID Schoolwide Site of Distinction for the 2015-2016 school year! ***“An AVID Schoolwide Site of Distinction*** represents the highest level of AVID implementation fidelity demonstrating excellence in instructional practice and the promotion of college readiness schoolwide.” (AVID) One of the most important measures included the percentage of juniors and seniors enrolled in a college course or an AP class. We are proud of the fact that 60% of our juniors and seniors take a college or AP class.

### **AVID Family Night**

We used our AVID Family Night to celebrate our ten year AVID anniversary by throwing a well-attended party. Students and their families answered AVID trivia questions, played games and enjoyed the pizza and cake.

### **AVID Site Visits**

On October 27, five educators from Philadelphia and Hyde Park , New York visited to see our AVID program. On December 3, four people from Gloucester City and Union, New Jersey visit. Finally, on March 3 the Mount Holly School District visited to tour the program. All of our visits went well. We have begun plans to host an AVID Showcase on May 17 that has been widely advertised to local administrators.

### **Carnegie Learning Algebra II**

Next September the math department will offer Algebra II to finalize the transition to the new math course sequence. Carnegie Learning offers a unique blend of textbook and “Cognitive Tutor” software instruction to deliver highly personalized mathematics learning for students of varying skill levels. The curricula are written specifically to meet the requirements of the Common Core State Standards and to support mathematics instructors in the transition to the new common core standards.

### **School Choice**

Due to the fact that we had fewer openings in our Interdistrict Public School Choice Program, we did not advertise as much as we usually have. However, next year we expect to have 8 choice students graduate thus a large number of openings; we will aggressively advertise during the fall of next school year.