



Regional School Unit #34

Alton, Bradley, and Old Town

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April 21st, 2021– Report to the Board

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Highlights

- As we return from the April student vacation, we'll be beginning our state assessment in math, language arts, and science. Math and ELA assessments have shifted this year to the NWEA, which RSU #34 has been using since about 2005. These assessments are given in grades 3-8 and the third year of high school. While I'm excited to save some assessment time by using a tool already used by us, I have concern that the nature of state assessment may limit our flexibility in its use in ways that make it no longer as valuable to us. Time will tell. Science is also shifting to a new assessment, with a new state vendor (New Meridian). This assessment is given in grades 5, 8, and the third year of high school. For each of these assessments, RSU #34 is responsible for assessing our in-person and our remote-only students, as well as students in out-of-district placements.

Chapter 104 Program Highlights

- We've begun our annual administration of the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), which we use with 3rd graders to learn more about how they think. We also use the CogAT as a universal screening tool for Chapter 104 (gifted & talented) services. The CogAT has three subsections (verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal/figurative). I greatly appreciate the work of the 3rd grade team, Mrs. Daniel, Mrs. Harvey, and Mrs. St. Peter for making this happen! Notably, we were able to bring all of the 3rd grade remote-only students in after school for assessment.

OTHS STEM Leaders Program and Honors Diploma Program Highlights

- Our seniors seeking to earn the Honors Diploma and/or the STEM Leaders Diploma presented their capstone projects the week prior to the student vacation. Many thanks to Mrs. Gardner, the OTHS administration, and faculty mentors for their flexibility in making videoconferencing presentations flow smoothly! This year had a very large group of seniors, which required a lot of pre-work by Mrs. Gardner and mentors to support their individualized research. It was incredible to see these culminating presentations, which reflect the students' work over their entire PK-12 journey with us. Each student is

Every student deserves to make continuous progress in school.

assessed on three rubrics (written communication, oral communication, visual communication), and must as a whole present work of superior quality. I had the opportunity to view six presentations, and each student did a fantastic job presenting their work.

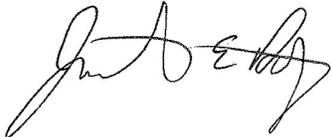
- Work continues on the proposed creation of a Humanities Diploma; many of our OTHS faculty are involved with this proposal and we are currently working through details of requirements for credits, field immersion, etc. If anyone has feedback on the Humanities Diploma, please don't hesitate to reach out to me, Mr. Gordon, or any of the team leading the way: Mrs. Davis (Natalie.Davis@rsu34.org), Mr. May (Michael.May@rsu34.org), Mrs. Gardner (Brenda.Gardner@rsu34.org).

ESEA programs (Title IA, IIA, IVA) and other federally-funded programs

RSU #34 is conducting needs assessment and planning for our federally-funded programs in parallel with the RSU #34 planning and budgeting for 2021-2022.

For information on how to be involved please email Jon.Doty@rsu34.org

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Doty", written in a cursive style.

Jon Doty