



## PROCTOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# SCHOOL MATTERS

Featured  
Articles



**TIME AND TEACHING**



**FACILITIES**  
SUMMER 2015 GOALS



**1:1 DIGITAL  
ENGAGEMENT**

## Curriculum and Instruction - Time and Teaching

As educators, one the most important thing we can do is to create lessons and learning environments which make the best use of our time in classrooms with our students. Time dedicated to quality instruction which engage kids is critical to improving learning. Our entire administrative team recently read an article in the "Marshall Memo" (<http://www.marshallmemo.com/issue.php?I=313cfb740fe15b79cc9277810a469273#Four>) titled: "Effective Use of Time in the Classroom and Professional Development". Teachers and administrators are keenly aware that time is a limited commodity and that we all want more of it. However, this article draws our attention to the importance of how we use our time. The article also points out that not only does unmanaged time have financial implications, but it has a huge impact on student learning.

As educators, it is important that we balance creating the very best use of learning time with opportunities to allow kids to enjoy their experience in your classrooms. I think we all could benefit from a quick review of this article. Try to take a moment of our "time" to check this article out! It is really pretty good.

## Facilities - Summer Projects

Each year our administrative team reviews our facility needs to determine just what needs to be done in our school buildings during the summer months to get ready for staff and students in the fall. Some of our administrative decisions involve moving classroom assignments and some involve minor construction projects. Last year we were dealing with a lot of change at Bay View Elementary and at our Middle and High Schools. This summer there will be far fewer large construction projects. The following table provides a brief (but certainly not complete) description of some of the bigger construction projects and facility changes that we are considering this summer.

Bay View Elementary	Pike Lake Elementary	Middle School	High School
Install shades in new rooms	Construct a secure, locked entrance by the office which requires authorized access to our building	Move Middle School Art to the room next to the pottery room and cut a door from that classroom to the pottery room	Burnish the high school wood gym floor
Install a new walk-in cooler in the cafeteria	Assign and move 5th grade classes across the hall from their present location	Reassign DCD program to a space not yet determined	Create new spaces for handicapped parking and van accessibility
Purchase furniture for the Multi-Purpose Room	Create 4 classroom/work areas from the two large/vacated 5th grade classrooms for: Special Education, Interventionist and math and reading specialists		
Finish landscaping and sign work and plant a fruit tree orchard (which was grant funded)			

## 1:1 Digital Engagement

The first few years of any digital adoption of a 1:1 learning environment in schools go through a period of adjustment and growth. The biggest initial problem centers around infrastructure. Providing a digital infrastructure which will handle the increased digital traffic on school networks is an absolute. This year, we have deployed more wireless access points, replace switches, and installed new fiber optics cables to our network closets. These efforts have greatly improved our ability to deliver a robust digital curriculum and have removed roadblocks that previously were in place.

Probably the biggest challenge many teachers run into is moving from substitution to augmentation. For instance, most teachers easily move from substituting written curriculum and materials for digital or online material. Teachers also don't encounter many obstacles when making a change from requiring assignments to be submitted in class to requiring students to submit assignments to a digital folder. However, providing digital learning environments needs to transcend substitution. We need to radically change how kids interact with each other, their teachers and the rest of the world to truly be engaged with digital learning.

Moving to a Learning Management System like Canvas, is the next big step forward. A step that will take our students and their teachers to new heights in what they can accomplish. My biggest aspiration in digital learning environments is to see classrooms access information, learn from their

teachers' guidance and collaborate with other students and the rest of the world. Imagine a class right here in the Proctor School District, learning Mandarin from Chinese students in China and Chinese students learning English from our students while collaboration on a project on the environment! Imagine a class at the harbor in Duluth studying the economics of Great Lakes shipping with students in Montreal, Quebec! That's what augmentation is all about. It's about changing how we access data and interact with the rest of the world.



I see some amazing things happening in our classrooms and I am excited about how our classrooms are changing through collaboration, expanded opportunities and yes augmentation! Next year we have plans to add two more grade levels to our 1:1 digital engagement program at our secondary school and begin the process of expanding digital curriculum and iPads at our elementary schools.

There is also some discussion about allowing a (BYOD) Bring Your Own Device program to 11th and 12th graders next year. If a BYOD initiative is formalized, this could allow for quicker deployment of iPads into our elementary school classrooms.

Thanks for being leaders in the region in digital engagement and for providing expanded opportunities for our students.



## Thank You Molly Johnson! Director Community Education

Director of Community Education, Molly Johnson will be retiring at the end of June this year after serving both the Proctor and Hermantown communities for ten years. Molly has done so much for the Proctor and Hermantown Districts that it will be hard to say good bye. The first time I met Molly was six years ago at my interview for the Superintendency of our District. She was part of the interview team who gave me a tour of our District. So.... I guess I've know Molly the longest at our District. She is an incredible asset who brought new programs and national recognition to the Proctor Hermantown Community Education Program. I wish Molly the very best and will miss her at Community Education.

## New Director Community Education

Kristal Berg will be taking over for the leadership of the Proctor/Hermantown Community Education Department. Kristal was approved by our School Board as the new Director of Community



Education at the May 11, 2015 School Board Meeting. Kristal currently is living in New Ulm and is working for the New Ulm School District. Kristal has an undergraduate degree in Recreation, Park and Leisure Service and a graduate degree in Educational Leadership from Minnesota State University Mankato and holds a Community Education Director's License from the Minnesota Department of Education. Kristal and her family will be moving to the area in July. Kristal will formally begin her directorship on July 1, 2015.

Molly and the Community Education staff will be meeting with Kristal on June 23-25, hopefully you will have a chance to meet Kristal and to extend a welcome.

### **Thank You:**

We are nearing the end of another school year. For me, each year reinforces the importance of education and serving kids and our communities. When you ask around, folks are saying some pretty positive things about our District. That's because of you and the positive changes we have made throughout our District. These accomplishments happen because of team work. I am proud to be part of these efforts. I hope you have a terrific Memorial Day Weekend! Thanks for all you do for our kids!