



# Regional School Unit #34

## Alton, Bradley, and Old Town

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### **Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Highlights**

Much focus in the last month has been in preparing for our summer programs for students, and summer curriculum development and professional development for staff:

- Our spring state assessments are complete (NWEA Math, Reading, and Language Use for grades 3-8 and 11, and MEA “New Meridian” Science for grades 5, 8, and 11. We had very good participation from our students, and appreciate the acrobatics of staff to make it happen! This was especially a challenge for remote-only learners, and in the situations where we were rolling out a new assessment in less-than-ideal conditions (new science assessment, and new Math/ELA assessments at OTHS). From conversations with peers in other districts, I perceive we have a much higher participation rate than most achieved. Our final make-up tests were Friday, and as I write I’m exporting NWEA data for teachers/teams to analyze.
- For students, a combination of current staff members and 14 “new to us” staff will provide a variety of programming at each grade span. In March we invited current staff to express interest in summer work, and recognized that we needed additional help. We brought in the “new to us” staff in two ways, through a program we created called “Earn While You Learn” (which aims at pre-service educators), and through contracting with the RiSE Center at UM for the services of several Masters of Science in Teaching candidates. These new staff began work in our schools on May 17<sup>th</sup>, working during the day in a variety of ways to help the schools, and then participating in a development/training program after school. With the end of the school year, their focus will turn to summer preparation with our staff, and also help out in a handful of ways such as creating science kits. They’ll then take a week off before launching into our summer programs for students.
- We have internal and external professional development this summer – workshops, conferences, trainings, coursework. Additionally, teachers and teams of teachers propose each year to conduct funded work in developing or revising curriculum and assessments. This is a good opportunity to really dig in and focus on an area, making a leap forward for our students. This year, teachers/teams made 40 separate proposals for such work, and I’m working through those proposals to commit funding

*Every student deserves to make continuous progress in school.*

