

Curriculum News

RSU No. 67

A newsletter for teachers, staff, and RSU No. 67 board about curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

Welcome back. I hope last week provided you the time, opportunity, and support needed to work with your fellow teachers to prepare for this upcoming year. I know it will be a different type of year, but I know the educators in this district will find creative solutions to continue to educate our students. This curriculum newsletter is a way to keep everyone informed of information regarding curriculum, instruction, and assessment and will come out on a regular basis.

Effective Teaching:

A reminder that all employees are invited to participate in Effective Teaching. It is a requirement of all teachers to complete it in their first two years of teaching in the district. [Here is the letter for more information](#). Please let me know if you are planning on participating this year.

District Committees:

The district committee schedule and dates can be found [here](#). There are still some openings in some of the district committees. If you are interested in participating, please let your building administrator know. The committees are currently set to start at 3. We know due to the tiered schedule of staff teachers in grades 7-12 will arrive later. Depending on the composition of the committee, we may adjust after the first meeting.

Service Learning:

Remember if you have an idea for a service learning project, there are funds for each building to support those projects. Check out our [shortened application](#) to apply for use of those funds. They are issued on a first come basis.

Trauma-Informed/Social-Emotional

Resources: Please check out these two sites: [Documents](#) and [Links](#) for resources on supporting learners in the classroom. We will continue to update with new information.

Assessment Timeline: Here is the [link](#) to the timeline for all assessments given in the district. Please note it is 3 pages-- so you should look at the one that corresponds to your building. We have made adjustments to the STAR testing window, as we want to provide you with an opportunity to focus on building relationships and routines with students due to the pandemic. Here are the [directions for STAR testing](#) as well. Remember you have access to all usernames and passwords for learners who are in your grades or classes once all the rosters are established. Those rosters will be completed by the end of the week to allow you access them when you would like. The state DOE is currently asking a waiver for our spring state assessments in the 2020-21 school year. As soon as I know the status of that waiver, I will let you know.

PD Resources: Here is a [link to resources](#) created this summer for GSuite tools, PowerSchool, and Zoom. Please check it out if you need support in these areas. Also, the IT department created this staff portal: <https://sites.google.com/rsu67.org/portal/home> that has links to many common sites we use, as well as PD resources. If there is something you need for PD support, please ask.

Mentors/Mentees: The district plan and any forms you may need can be found [here](#). An email to all mentor/mentees was sent as a replacement of our normal meet and greet. We recognize this year may look different and support mentors/mentees meeting in-person or virtually. As a team, make the determination that best works for you. Please be sure to schedule regular meetings though, as this will be a year when everyone will need extra support. The district mentor meetings for those who are currently mentoring are scheduled for October 15, December 14, February 24, and May 20th. This year those meetings will be focused on revisiting our binder of resources for new teachers based on each building. If you are a mentor, but do not have a mentee this year, you are still welcome to attend.

Teacher Evaluation Information: The teacher evaluation plan can be found [here](#). The plan was adjusted last year to allow teachers to have one more year on their cycle due to the pandemic. Those teachers who are currently in their 4th year of teaching in RSU 67 and those brand new to RSU 67 will need to develop plans. Everyone else will be using the plans they had already created. We are continuing to use the Focused Marzano model and iObservation for teacher evaluation. Any new plans or revisions will need to be developed by October 15. We will offer a series of workshops throughout the year to support staff in this process. Dates will be shared soon.

Curriculum Documents: A reminder that this [link](#) accesses all of our curriculum documents. I am still updating/revising all documents to make sure they reflect our spring and summer meetings in science and social studies.

PD Opportunities: Through our partnerships with PREP and Northwoods Partnership, there will be opportunities for professional development throughout the year. I will use this newsletter to share the dates and information. Please be sure to be selective in what you choose to protect instructional time, as well as workshops that align directly with your growth goals in your evaluation plan. Be on the lookout for future opportunities.

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