

**MSAD #53 School Board
Curriculum Report
August 31, 2009**

I. Curriculum Update - This summer, four teams of teachers worked on updating and realigning to standards the areas of PK-8 Science, 5-8 Health, PK-4 Math, and PK-4 English/Language Arts. We used a vertical teaming approach to ensure clarity from grade to grade. These new curriculum drafts will be presented to staff during our August in-service and at staff meetings in September. Throughout this school year, we will seek feedback on the drafts so that we can present completed documents to the School Board in the spring.

II. Summer Work - In addition to the curriculum work, teachers and Ed Techs participated in a variety of training sessions. All sessions have a long-term goal of improving instruction for disadvantaged learners through differentiated instructional strategies. Twenty staff members were trained by Jean Haegar of the Great Schools Partnership in facilitation techniques for our Professional Learning Groups. Jean will continue to work with the facilitators throughout the year to support the progress of the PLGs. Other summer work sessions included Word Study, Writer's Workshop, *Connected Math Program* teaching strategies, phonics and phonemic awareness teaching strategies, technology basics with Macs, math strategies for PK-4, and Student Assistance Team/RTI training. In all, staff logged more than 2300 hours of professional learning time. This work was possible because of our federal ARRA (recovery) fund allocation. It was very gratifying to spend the summer working with teachers and support staff who are dedicated, smart, and determined to improve their teaching so that more students will be successful.

III. Summer School - Four weeks of summer school programming were provided this year to our Title I eligible K-8 students. We had 35 students in the K-4 program at Vickery, 15 students at Warsaw in grades 5-7, and 29 students at the Warsaw/MCI Transitions Academy. The goal of the K-8 program is to help students to at least maintain their year-end achievement levels in reading, writing, and math, to prevent the typical summer slide. The goal of the Transitions Academy is to prepare students to begin high school with confidence so that they can be successful immediately and in the long term.

- In the PK-4 program, 93% of the students maintained or improved reading scores and 77% maintained or improved writing scores.
- In the Warsaw program, 47% of students maintained or improved reading scores, and 87% maintained or improved math scores.
- At Transitions Academy, 100% of the students improved their scores on the summer literature assessment, and 78% maintained or improved their math scores.

Although results vary by grade level and subject area, overall we feel that our summer programs are valuable for our Title I students and we will continue to provide the programs.

IV. Gifted and Talented Program Update:

Currently, we have 34 students in grades 4-8 who are identified.

- 4 in grade 4
- 5 in grade 5
- 3 in grade 6
- 13 in grade 7
- 9 in grade 8

17 are identified in reading

- 4 in writing
- 13 in math
- 2 in science
- 3 in social studies
- 6 in music
- 3 in visual art
- 3 in theater arts

14 students have multiple identifications.

Screening of K-3 students took place last spring. From that screening, we have created a "talent pool" list for teachers to raise their awareness of the abilities and interests of students who show strong interest and/or achievement in one of the academic or fine arts disciplines.

New programming last year included enrichment classes in Theater Arts and Visual Art for Warsaw students. This year, elementary music teacher Todd Lake will be establishing a grade 3-4 chorus for students with musical talent and interest; art teacher Carla Littlefield will create an art enrichment class. The needs of 4th grade gifted math students will be met through the new skills block. Literacy Specialist Louise McCannell will invite gifted and talented 4th grade readers to join a book club/discussion group. This new programming at Vickery will significantly expand our gifted/talented program offerings and better meet the needs of our younger students.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne V. Miller
Curriculum Specialist