

**MSAD #53 School Board
Curriculum Report
December 7, 2009**

I. Curriculum - A report will be provided to the curriculum committee on revisions made to the PK-8 Science, PK-4 Language Arts, and 5-8 Health curricula. These subject areas were revamped during our summer work. The curriculum teams will meet three times during the school year to complete the revisions.

II. One-to-one computing at the middle school has enabled the implementation of the **FASTT Math** program which was launched in mid-November. Students log in to an individualized account and practice their math facts in a game-like environment. Artificial intelligence in the software tailors the program to each student's current and developing skill level. The program is being used in Skills Block math classes which meet two times per week and in at least two regular math classes per week for about 15 minutes per session. I hope to report significant gains in computational fluency skills for our students by the end of the year. Teachers report that the students are highly engaged in the program and they are seeing progress already. Title IID funds were used to purchase the site license.

III. Gifted and Talented Program - Annual student planning meetings are complete. Twenty-six students in grades 4-8 have individualized plans for their area of academic identification (reading, writing, math, science, social studies). Music and art enrichment programs are underway. The annual G/T application required by the state is due in mid-December. A copy will be provided at the January meeting.

IV. Professional Development - Professional Learning Groups continue to meet approximately once a month for two hours. In-service time on December 7th will be used for a PLG session. Facilitators have received very positive feedback from teachers about the professional learning taking place in the groups. A formal evaluation/survey will be distributed at the December 7th session.

The Reading First course offered by the Department of Education will be completed in December. Teachers from almost every grade level have attended this weekly course to reinforce and deepen knowledge about early reading skills.

Math teachers at Warsaw have been participating in a book study with consultant Meghan Southworth on differentiating instruction in the math classroom. They will wrap up these discussions in December, completing the program by planning differentiated units from the CMP curriculum.

Respectfully submitted,

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Curriculum Specialist