

# Curriculum Corner

From the Desk of Carrie Zales



## Summer Endeavors

The Summer of 2018 brought the most summer work completed by our staff in the past ten years. Summer work impacted Pre-kindergarten-Grade 12 instructional staff including our Teaching Assistants. We spent approximately \$60,000 on summer work efforts to prepare for the 2018-2019 school year. This work focused on priorities within the district as well as building identified tasks. The work fell into the categories below:

- Creation of Social Studies Inquiries
- Creation of 3D Science Lessons
- Training on Next Generation Math and ELA Standards
- Updates to our District-wide Writing Plan
- Updates to our K-5 Mathematical Requirements
- Reflection on Ci3T interventions
- Data team work
- Curriculum work

- PBIS Planning
- AIS coordination
- Kindergarten screening

Thank you to everyone who participated!



## September/October

### Points of Interest:

- *October 5th—District-wide Superintendent's Day—“The Future is Now” - 31 PD opportunities for instructional staff to expand their knowledge base.*
- *October 23rd District-wide Early Release Day*

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## Major District Initiatives

As promised, the District is continuing with the hard work that has progressed over the past three years. As we move through our short and long term objectives, we are starting to see the fruits of our labor in the

outcome data that we review. It is important to know that our district leadership teams work hard throughout the year to make sure that we are meeting intermittent targets to ensure that progress is made. Please

be aware of the following district work:

- Explicit writing instruction and writing across content areas
- Identification of writing coaching criteria and professional opportunities for

## Major District Initiatives—continued

Teacher leadership

- Ci3T Literacy work
- Ci3T Behavioral/Social/Emotional Planning
- Curriculum mapping—horizontal and vertical alignment
- Interim Assessment along with Level 1 and 2 analysis
- Continuation of building level Data Analysis Plans to impact student achievement
- Mathematical Mindsets and PD opportunity



SMS students working on map skills.

## Measureable Learning Targets

### What is a Learning Target?

A learning target is a tool that helps students see where they are going by ensuring that classroom learning targets are both specific and student friendly. It is the learning that will be done for today's lesson from a student's point of view.

Learning targets and instructional objectives are different. A learning objective is the learning outcome inclusive of content, learning conditions and mastery criteria. Objectives are written from a teacher's point of view.

### What Are the Basic Steps to Creating a Learning Target?

(borrowed from Tools for Thoughtful Assessment)

1. Generate a list of learning targets for an upcoming lesson or unit. To do this, ask yourself what you want students to know, understand, and be able to do by the end of the lesson or unit. Tip: Be sure to list targets (what you want students to know, understand, and be able to do) rather than activi-

ties.

2. Make your list of targets student friendly. To do this, • Write the targets in "I will" or "I can" format. ("I will know/understand/be able to \_\_\_\_.") • Frame the targets in simple, age-appropriate language that students will understand. Be specific. A well-written target should tell students what they're trying to achieve and let them assess their ability to achieve it. Note: Because understanding can be hard to define and assess, you may want to replace the word understand with something more specific when framing your targets (e.g., "I will be able to explain..." instead of "I will understand...").

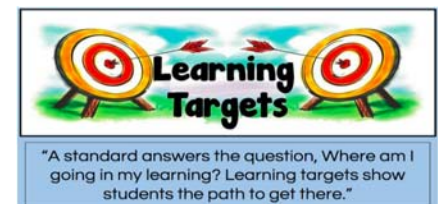
3. Post the list in a prominent location and leave it there throughout the lesson or unit. Discuss the targets with students so that they are clear about what they are aiming for and why it's worthwhile (e.g., "We'll be learning how to use a book's index. This is important because...").

4. Refer to the list regularly to show, in class (tasks, activities, assignments), students how the things they're doing

relate to the things they're supposed to be learning (targets). For example: Today, you'll be examining yes and no examples of prime numbers (activity). The goal of this activity is for you to understand and be able to define what a prime number is (target).

5. Remind students to revisit the list of targets throughout the lesson or unit to gauge their progress.

A neat pictorial representation of how a learning target translates into acquiring content standards can be found below:



## Characteristics of Effective Feedback

The purpose of effective feedback is to give information about how an individual is doing in their efforts to reach a goal. There are characteristics that make feedback effective and are necessary if we want the results to be meaningful and productive.

### Characteristics

1. Effective feedback needs to be goal-referenced—an individual needs to have a goal, work towards the goal and receive feedback on the actions they are taking to attain the goal.
2. Feedback needs to be specific, concrete and allow for actionable steps. This feedback needs to
3. Feedback needs to be user-friendly. The information needs to be stated in terms the user can understand and needs to be focused on an amount of feedback that is digestible.
4. Feedback needs to be timely so that it is meaningful to the receiver.
5. Feedback needs to be ongoing so that the receiver has time to implement change and receive opportunities to get additional feedback.
6. Feedback needs to be consistent, accurate and trustworthy.

These characteristics should be considered any time we are offering feedback to others. Following this recipe will assist in building trust and ensuring everyone is consistent with expectations.



Momot place value math challenge.

## Technology Integration Recommendations

Over the summer time was spent finding ways to integrate technology into classrooms. The following are some websites and apps that are worth sharing!

### Websites

- We Give Books—free online books
- My Story Books—create digital books
- Thing Link—organize favorite websites

### Apps

- Toontastic—creative storytelling app
- Slide 1,000—place value game
- Foldify—creation of 3D figures
- Virtual Manipulatives—specific to percentages, fractions and decimals
- Plickers—polling app for classroom
- News O Matic—daily newspaper for kids

Popplet—mind maps that help students think visually

Ripped Apart—a Civil War mystery app from the Smithsonian



## Educational Reading Recommendations

Many of you have requested some professional reading recommendations. Here are a few that are trending in professional journals.

*Mindset—the New Psychology of Success*—Carol Dweck

*School Climate*—Peter DeWitt

*Building People—Social-Emotional Learning*—Tamara Fyke

*Blended Learning in Action*—Catlin Tucker

*Grit the Power of Passion and Perseverance*—Angela Duckworth

*Teacher Man*—Fran McCourt

*Teaching With Your Mouth Shut*—Donald Finkel

*Teaching Student to Communicate mathematically*—Laney Sammons

