



Scranton Attendance Center

Board of Education Report

April 2015

To: Dr. Steve Pegram, Superintendent & the Board of Education
From: Mrs. Jennifer Hanni, Principal
Date: April 4 2015
Re: April BOE Report

The following is a summary of the progress toward our building and district goals at the Scranton Attendance Center during the month of April. Attached you will also find our parent newsletter that includes additional events and news from our building.

Use Data to Drive Instructional Decisions

April will be a month full of assessments to determine the growth and progress students have made this year. Students will take state assessments throughout the month. We finished the Multidisciplinary Performance task the last week of March and will complete the English/Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science tests throughout the month of April. We are continuing to follow our curriculum and teach throughout this time, leading up to our curriculum post tests that will be taken at the end of April. Students will also conduct their final AIMSweb benchmarking to serve as their third data point to show growth as well. We will use all of this data to gauge individual student growth, as well as evaluate our instruction and curriculum for effectiveness.

Align and Map Course Curriculums

SAC has finished up our reading curriculums and made necessary changes to go public. We now have our math and reading curriculums published on the public website. We are currently working on our writing curriculum and hope to have it complete before we leave for the summer. We've discussed future timelines and plan to have science and social studies entered and public by the end of next year, as well as a review/revision of our math curriculum once we've implemented our new resource EM4.

Dr. Coester from Emporia State University visited on March 10 and shared more practical, hands-on methods for teaching the standards for math. Teachers were able to take many of her ideas and implement them into the classroom the very next day. We've valued her visits and have added many of her ideas and activities into our curriculum.

Effectively use our Evaluation Tool

Staff continue to work on their personal goals and develop as professionals. I provide bi-monthly feedback on a rubric based on the McRel rubric as I perform walk throughs. I make comments about their instruction and classroom activities for that time period and connect them to the standards addressed in our evaluation document. I email them that information as I leave the room. Staff have commented that they appreciate the feedback, and I've found it has started several productive conversations about best practices. I will continue these walk throughs and feedback sessions throughout the rest of the year.

Communicate Effectively with all Stakeholders

We look forward to holding P/T Conferences in the middle of April. Many teachers have decided to hold student-led conferences, where the students choose projects and work they'd like to share with their parents, as well as discuss their strengths and things they want to work on. Teachers will also share information that has been distributed with progress reports and grade cards, as well as explain the information parents will receive regarding our end-of-year assessments with their 4th quarter grade card. We hope these sessions will provide parents with data and information about how their student has grown throughout this year.

We've begun working on a standards-based grade card for grades K-4. We explained our thought process and purpose behind the change at the most recent SITE Council meeting, and have begun work as a committee to create a draft to share at the next meeting. We value parent feedback during this process and plan to survey them for their opinions and needs. We hope this continual communication helps ease the transition into a new grade card next year.

Develop as Professionals

On Friday, April 3, all OAC and SAC teachers attended LETRS Training, which gives the brain science behind how students learn to read. This professional development session was supported by the KRR grant, and ties into our reading tier curriculum. We hope to continue to grow and learn about student development and implement that knowledge into our instruction and activities to best meet the needs of all learners.

We've continued to hold grade-level collaboration meetings twice each week, and have increased the communication between grade levels and the special education department as well. We work to get all staff on the same page and work together to meet student needs effectively and efficiently. We hope to increase the amount of collaboration with other buildings as well, and will be developing talk points to hopefully share before summer.