

BOE REPORT

March 2022

**Scranton Attendance Center Preschool
Curriculum Instruction and Assessment**

Faith Flory

"Inspiring and Empowering every Charger, every day."

What's Happening at the Preschool

Pre-Enrollment has begun for next years students. This preliminary step will give the SAC team time to review enrollment numbers and how that affects our grant funding for At-Risk, SPED, and General education services. We will then host our first online enrollment event at the preschool this summer.

On April 8th, OAC will host Kindergarten Round up for our exiting preschoolers to provide a special day to meet teachers, tour the school, and receive parent information. We look forward to this big day!

NHS celebrated Read Across America with our preschoolers this week and engaged with students in various literacy crafts and activities. Our littles love hanging out with the big kids. We are planning to host them more often next year.

Please check out this month's newsletter to learn more about SAC Preschool activities.

<https://www.smore.com/e327g>

What's happening in the Curriculum Department?

Professional Development

USD 434 staff and stakeholders participated in a poverty simulation this month. It was eye-opening to say the least. Immersing yourself in the everyday life of the economic challenges is all consuming. Many of our staff members have experienced poverty in their lives and others have not. All of our experiences in life



Well Child Screening!

Free developmental screening for kids from birth to 5!

Every "First Friday" of the month!
8:30 am-10:30 am

At Scranton Attendance Center

- Who? Any child from birth-5 who hasn't attended a screening in the last year. (Current preschoolers do NOT need to attend)

**For an appointment, call
SAC @ 800-836-9525**

- All areas of development are screened: language, speech, cognitive, fine & gross motor, vision & hearing
- Sponsored by your local school and Three Lakes Educational cooperative

were challenged during this simulation as we learned about the daily struggles many of our families face each and every day. This learning opportunity encouraged us to re-think how we connect, teach, and respond to kids every day. I received great feedback from this experience and know that we all learned some valuable lessons that we can implement in our work with students.

Math Curriculum

The Math Committee has been busy this month. We have met twice to continue our work on district alignment, best practices in Mathematics, developing a vetting process, and reviewing new resources. The team reviewed six high quality curriculum resources and set goals for our piloting process. Once this is finalized we will report to the BOE and begin communication with all stakeholders about the future process for Math Resource adoption.

KESA

Our KESA visit was a great success. Not only did we have a great day of reflecting on what we have done over the past 5 years, but we received excellent feedback on our process and planning as well as suggestions on how to maintain forward progress from our OVT. They have recommended full accreditation to the ARC and we will know our official accreditation status this summer.

District Leadership Team

The DLT met this month to discuss the drafted BOE goals on district culture and climate as well as communication. This team would like to share those discussions with the BOE at the next work session. Once these goals are established the DLT would like to be part of the action planning to achieve the BOE vision and goals. This team will continue meeting throughout the school year and create a collaborative process to supporting BOE goals with internal and external stakeholders.

State Assessments

State Assessments are right around the corner. Our testing window will open on March 21st and close on April 29th. We will be communicating with families in the coming weeks about the schedules, importance of these assessments, and how they help their child be successful. Teachers are working hard and diving deep into their grade level standards and skills in order to help students grow and achieve readiness for the next level of learning. We know that this assessment is only one of many measures of student achievement but it is directly aligned to the standards set forth by the state of Kansas and a way of comparatively evaluating school districts. We will be excited to see our districts growth from last year.

Summit Learning Recommendation

The 6-12th grade faculty and administration have had in depth conversations regarding the future of Summit Learning as an opportunity for students at USD 434. This initiative came to fruition during a time of unknown circumstances for our school, but not without research, planning, training, and the best intentions for students and staff. Summit Learning was a tool that became attractive to Santa Fe Trail during our years of redesign investigation that were driven by goals for high student achievement. A plan to pilot Summit Learning in 9-12th grade was already in the works when COVID 19 hit our nation. We then paused, reflected, and developed a collaborative task force to make decisions about the reopening of schools in the fall 2020. Summit Learning was part of that plan and we moved forward with implementation. As we know, our district struggled with on-boarding for various reasons and many that I take full responsibility for as the Director of Curriculum. The conflicts surrounding Summit Learning led our district to a difficult shift as we moved to an OPT-IN format. We made this shift to support both students and families. However, this shift was very difficult for teachers and administration. It is a logistical nightmare to run an opt in with the current number of staff members, scheduling conflicts, and additional instructional planning for teachers. Due to this on-going struggle, the teachers and administration have decided that Summit Learning is only sustainable as an All-In curriculum initiative for core content areas. However, due to the controversy that consumed the past year we know that option creates concern for some stakeholders in our district. We are now left with a difficult situation. Summit Learning has brought rich, rigorous, and relevant learning opportunities to our students and supported our teachers with a highly developed curriculum. Without Summit Learning, we will struggle with the same issues we had the past 15 yearsunaligned, without comprehensive teacher resources, lacking rigor, and using outdated practices in much of our district. With much consideration, it is our professional recommendation that we set aside Summit Learning (but not without apprehension) and move forward with intensive curriculum development, a cycle for resource adoption, a vetting process for ALL resources used in the district, built in collaboration for staff, internal accountabilities, investment in on-going PD and coaching, district-wide celebrations for learning, and parent/community engagement opportunities to surround our students with rich and challenging learning opportunities. Our students deserve it! We would like a commitment from the BOE to move forward with this curriculum recommendation in all content areas PK-12th grade.

