



*Inspiring and Empowering Every Charger, Every Day!*

Dr. Carrie Mugridge

## Curriculum and Assessment Updates - February 2024

### Curriculum

- Social Studies Committee - Due to a snow day, our scheduled social studies committee meeting on January 10 was canceled. Our committee is rescheduled to convene for the first time on February 14. The team consists of social studies teachers from grades 6-12. We will meet with a representative from the Kansas State Department of Education to provide a brief overview of the HGSS standards and insights on the trajectory of our upcoming committee plans.

### TASN

Over the next few months, our primary focus within the TASN program will revolve around ELA/Reading and Early Childhood. To launch this emphasis, our first training session with a TASN Reading Trainer commenced on February 5. The morning session involved PreK-5 educators, and the afternoon session was tailored to meet the needs of secondary teachers.

### Assessment

Teachers are completing the final round of Interim Assessments in preparation for the upcoming State Assessments in March and April. Teachers will use the data from assessments to guide their instruction regarding grade level standards.

### Professional Development

On February 19, a packed schedule awaits us for a day of Professional Learning. The agenda includes essential topics such as State Assessment Security & Ethics Training. Additionally, Greenbush will deliver a presentation to CAC and HS staff focusing on high-impact instructional strategies in the classroom. Simultaneously, K-5 teachers will delve deeper into Open Court with the guidance of a trainer. Anticipate a day filled with activities that promise to be both busy and impactful for our dedicated teachers.

### Board Goal 3: Recruit and Retain Highly Qualified Staff

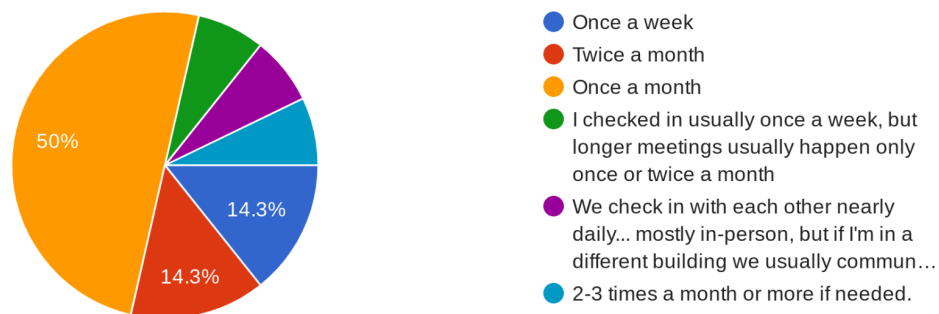
### 3.2 Continue to provide high -quality mentoring for new teaching and administrative staff

● For the 2023-2024 school year, we have overhauled and enhanced our mentoring program in the Santa Fe Trail school district based on the feedback received in the staff survey from spring 2023. Staff expressed the need for more robust and trained mentors. Responding to this request, we have introduced a new program called Highly Qualified Mentors. Two mentors were chosen for each building to undergo intensive coaching and mentor training. The HQ Mentors convene bi-monthly for training sessions and dedicated time in their mentees' classrooms for observation and modeling teaching. Advancing in our pursuit of retaining and recruiting highly qualified staff, we've introduced the role of a district-wide Learning and Development Specialist. Ms. Chelsea Switts has spearheaded a new instructional coaching protocol for teachers across the district. Her focus extends to first-year teachers, those who voluntarily seek coaching, and those recommended by the administration. The impact of her coaching this year has been instrumental in retaining teachers and fostering their professional growth, thereby encouraging their continued dedication to the teaching profession.

In a recent survey, participants including mentors, mentees, and teachers involved in instructional coaching shared their insights on the new Highly Qualified (HQ) Mentor process and initiative. The compiled data is presented below.

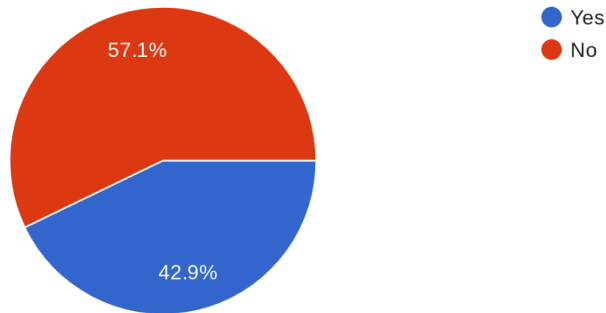
How often do you meet with your mentor or mentee?

14 responses



Have you meet with the instructional coach?

14 responses



**What do you find beneficial about the mentoring program?**

**From Mentees:**

Gives me new ideas that I wouldn't have thought of otherwise.

How it gives people connections to other staff members and access to resources.

You have someone that you can go to if you need information. Helps with getting integrated into the school.

It's beneficial for 1st time teachers....or new to the district.

I can ask for advice from my mentor.

I have someone who knows the ropes of working in a school to ask questions.

All the help that I am getting from my mentor and the ideas to help me become a good teacher.

A personal contact in the district for encouragement and conversation, helps

**From Mentors:**

Building Relationships; Chance to Make a Difference

Fostering relationships with mentees and being able to help in any way I can.

I appreciate the time and effort the district has given us as mentors so that we can be more effective.

Fostering relationships with mentees and being able to help in any way I can.

Being able to support the mentee as she learns her role has been rewarding. Since I have done that job, which makes it easier for me to help her.

### **Mentors, what benefits have you received from the Highly Qualified Mentor Program?**

The opportunity to learn more about the mentees, the opportunity to sit in classes and be more familiar with other teaching methods, and knowing that you are helping out.

I have really enjoyed the training and the time spent where we can bounce ideas off of each other to better support our mentees.

Building Relationships; Chance to Make a Difference; Growth as a Colleague

Sub-provided time to meet with my mentees. Wonderful training, and great resources to utilize.

I have received very valuable training and many resources to improve my practices as a mentor leader in my building. I also think the time to talk with other mentors on a regular basis has been helpful for support and suggestions.

It has helped me that the mentee understands her job. She and I have worked very well together this year.

### **Has your mentoring and/or coaching experience impacted your own instructional practice in your classroom? If so, how?**

Yes, it's improved because of it.

Yes, it has allowed me to use strategies that I hadn't thought about before.

It has helped me by improve my overall teaching

It has! I feel like everytime I go watch my mentee, I learn a new way they are practicing of using open court and bridges. I think we can all learn from each other.

Yeah good reminders to have & keep classroom management systems in place, whether its posting objectives, transitions to different activities or behavior management.

Yes. I am trying out new strategies and also thinking more about my classroom management as I help my mentees work on these same topics.

Absolutely! I am reminded of many practices and resources to use in my classroom, take value in observing other classrooms and teachers, and continue to grow my educational learning. I also love the time and opportunity to build relationships with my mentees and provide support for their early teaching years.

Mentor has been a good example of a prepared and disciplined teacher.

Absolutely! I find great value in learning new practices in education and fostering amazing relationships with my mentees. I always learn from them when I am in the classrooms observing and being able to have thought-provoking and motivating conversations.

It does remind you of the many responsibilities the new person has. And that some of those things are best doing and being supported. It reminds you that we all need support and help in learning.

Yes, able to observe Weights coaches and PE teachers with more experience than me.

Yes I have learned so much and getting ideas to use in my classroom and improved on my classroom