

- **April 11, 2012**

*Posted by Shannon Focht at 4/12/2012*

### **Pullman High School**

The Pullman High School staff worked together, mostly as departments, on a number of different topics focused on students learning.

**Math:** Discussed a proposed Applied Math curriculum and gave updates on the textbook adoptions being considered for next year.

**Health and Fitness:** Discussed establishing a uniform process to deal with students that are injured in an effort to keep them participating in class, met with foods and nutrition teacher to articulate curriculum, discussed establishing a rubric for offering an honors PE option.

**Science:** Worked on refining a rubric for technical writing in the sciences, explored a multimedia resource that will help in the use of segments during discussion, met with the English department to look at the technical writing rubric.

**Art and Music:** Discussed solutions to students that struggle demonstrating basic skills in a particular area, discussed teacher-centered strategies and how to incorporate into courses.

**Social Studies:** Discussed the graduation requirement changes that need to be in place for the class of 2016, brainstormed solutions to how to change World History to meet those needs and how to include the .5 credit of Civics in the course offerings.

**CTE/IT:** Discussed the Microsoft IT Academy certification program and how that can be incorporated into the frameworks for Info Tech.

**English:** Discussion centered on current Literacy Term scope and sequence and how that may fit with the new Common Core Standards, revised the PHS paragraph writing rubric, discussed TPEP framework and how to incorporate those into lesson and unit planning, met with Science to share their technical writing rubric.

**World Language:** Continued looking at student writing for levels 1, 2, 3. Compared these to the standards for writing developed in previous sessions.

**SPED:** Discussed student behavior needs, expectations, consequences and behavioral reporting forms.

**SPED paraprofessionals:** Reviewed educational materials by curriculum area to determine materials needed to support students in the math, reading, writing and life skills, reviewed websites that can be used to support and enhance students learning.

*-Joe Thornton, PHS Principal*

The Pullman High School Science and Agriculture Teachers used this collaboration period to assess the new Building-level Writing rubric in terms of the existing science curriculum. We further developed an addendum to this rubric for standardized scoring in technical writing (to include drawings and technical diagrams) and data analysis. We shared our work with the English department and will develop it further with the Career and Technical Education department next month. The overall goal is to create a common language in writing assessment across the curriculum in order to improve student performance. In addition, the group shared tips and techniques for integrating video clips into presentations to replace full length videos in the curriculum.

*-Jason Bledsoe, PHS Science teacher*

### **Lincoln Middle School**

Our latest collaboration time was spent working as grade level teams. This was the first opportunity we had this year to collaborate as grade levels. During our time we were able to discuss placements for students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes. The process was very efficient since we were all able to be in the same place at the same time. This discussion then expanded to providing additional comments and recommendations for other students in the class. We hope this information will be helpful for 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers next year. Additionally we were able to discuss strategies working for students in other classes that we are going to try in our own classes. This has allowed us to gain a deeper and clearer picture of our students by having the opportunity to hear other voices and perspectives about our students in different content areas. We are looking forward to additional opportunities to work together to address goals from our SIP plan and to look for ways our different content areas can support each other throughout the school year.

*-Heather Lohrmeyer, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science at Lincoln Middle School*

During our building collaboration day the focus was on transition and how we can better serve students at the next level. We split our staff into grade level teams looking at data and areas of concerns for students as they move to the next grade level. We shared interventions we are using with students and how they are affecting the performance of each child. Grade level teams finished their conversation by focusing on our current School Improvement Plan for the upcoming school year and possible goal areas for Lincoln Middle School.

*-Cameron Grow, Principal at Lincoln Middle School*

### **Jefferson Elementary School**

The Jefferson Staff spent the collaboration day in April discussing the new teacher evaluation model, the math curriculum adoption, and ways to modify the schedule to maximize teaching time.

The new teacher evaluation system, which was piloted in our district, was discussed. The principal and the teachers involved in the pilot presented information to the staff. The staff asked many questions that the pilot team answered. The teachers serving on the math materials adoption committee presented the staff with the progress toward identifying the materials being considered for adoption. The staff had several ideas about streamlining the process to get materials aligned with the common core state standards as soon as possible.

The building schedule was discussed and several ideas surrounding reducing the disruption of pull out programs to classroom instruction. The day concluded with each grade level team analyzing student growth data and to make recommendations for improvements.  
*-Craig Nelson, Principal at Jefferson Elementary*

### **Franklin Elementary School**

Franklin Elementary spent the April 11<sup>th</sup> collaboration afternoon focusing on math. We began the day as a full group discussing the new common core standards and changes that we will see across all grades. We also discussed our timeline for transitioning to the new standards. The rest of the afternoon was spent in grade level teams working on our current school improvement math efforts. Teams are working to finish their end of the year goals, reflect, and adjust for next year.

The Elementary PE teachers also met at Franklin and worked to improve the elementary specialist report card. The PSD library team met in the tech lab and learned about lexile scores and how to incorporate lexile scores into the library systems.

It was a productive day for all staff involved!  
*-Brian Moore, Principal at Franklin Elementary*

### **Sunnyside Elementary School**

During the collaboration day on April 11 our Sunnyside Elementary School Improvement Plan (SIP) guided our work. We kept the guiding questions in mind as we collaborated. What exactly do students need to know and be able to do? How will we know if they have learned it? How will we respond if they don't learn it? What are the instructional strategies needed to meet different learning styles and/or levels of learners?

Grade level teams collaborated to discuss curriculum and specific student needs as well as to review data. The topics included mathematics, writing, social studies, STAR, DIBELS, progress monitoring, ELL supports, and CBAs, as well as specialty areas including physical education, art, library, music, Title 1, and special education. It was an effective use of 3 collaboration hours and it brought the grade level and specialist teams together to plan ways to improve student learning and increase student

achievement at  
-Dr. Rick Bates, Principal at Sunnyside Elementary School

Sunnyside.

This past collaboration day was the most productive we've had. Our building worked together as grade level and specialist teams.

The second grade team began by collaborating with the first grade team to discuss writing and research reports. Each year we both have our students write animal reports. We compared what each grade level is currently doing and then shared ideas on how to improve the report writing process. We then identified how we are building on the report writing experience between grade levels.

Our second grade team then moved into social studies. Our team went through the current *History of Pullman, WA* unit originally created by Nancy Nelson. We updated some lessons and collectively planned out the rest of the year. Our administrator bought our team a National Geographic Theme Set titled Providing Goods that we requested to meet our social studies standards. We were thankful to have time to identify how to incorporate one of the units into this school year.

-Second Grade Team at Sunnyside Elementary School