

NEW HOPE-SOLEBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT
*Engaging, Enriching and Empowering All Students
through a World-Class Education*



Education Office Spring Newsletter

The Education Office is responsible for Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Professional Development for the students, staff and community of New Hope-Solebury School District. The Director of Elementary and Secondary Education works with Curriculum Liaisons (aka Department Heads), Instructional Technology and Special Education Departments as well as the various Board Committees and community members who are vested in the success of our NHSD students.

As we begin the last marking period of the 2016-2017 school year, we look to the work we have done so far and the work we will wrap up by June 14th! As previously stated in our Fall Newsletter, our focus for Professional Development is centered on k-12 instructional practices. Whether we are refining our approach in newer curricular materials like Literacy By Design (LBD) and Everyday Math version 4 (EDM), or redefining our Social Studies and Instructional Technology curricula, the work is a continuous effort to make NHSD schools the best they can be!

The newly revamped Curriculum Review Cycle is in full force this year and we have done much in the way of mapping and revising our Social Studies and Instructional Technology curricula. The committee charged with this valuable work is comprised of teachers from across the district representing all grade levels in each of our four school buildings. We will be ready to offer a revamped Social Studies Curriculum and Instructional Technology standards for implementation and refinement for the 2017-18 school year. The majority of the work was to identify gaps and overlaps in curriculum coverage to ensure efficient and effective teaching and learning in the Social Studies content areas and to pair the ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education) standards for our Instructional Technology department scope and sequence. Get ready to see a rejuvenated focus on local, state, national and international lens for Social Studies k-12 via our “Toolkit” approach. The Social

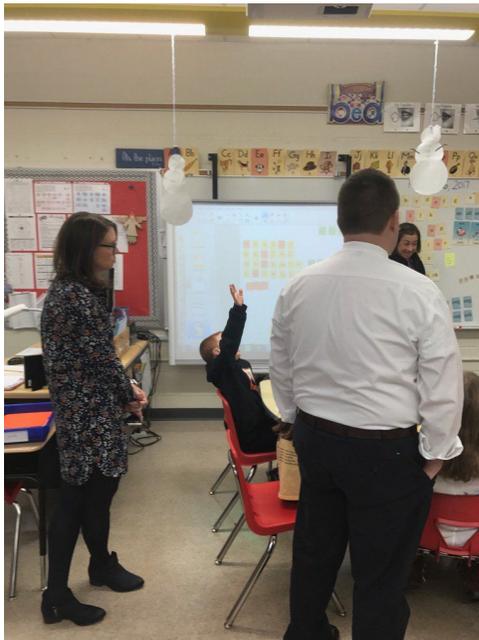


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Studies Toolkit focuses on the skills and concepts of Social Studies with the emphasis on: *Politics, Economics, Faith Based Systems/Religion, Culture, and Geography.*



PSSA and Keystone - are state assessments focused on the areas of English/Language Arts, Math and Science. Students in grades 3-10 sit for these exams during the Spring months (*PSSA in April for grades 3-8 and Keystone Exams in May for grades 7-10 with some taking them in 11th grade after course completion*). These tests are aligned to the rigorous PA Core Academic Standards, which are designed to guide curriculum and teaching practices. Our students and teachers are proud of their efforts and it shows by way of the countless accolades that the school district enjoys year in and year out! We are one of the best school districts in Bucks County and the State! We thank you for your understanding that these assessments are state mandates and the efforts the community makes to ensure that our students are in attendance and well prepared to do their best!



(Leadership Team conducting Instructional Rounds)

In the area of Professional Development, we enjoyed two entire days on February 16th and 17th devoted to a mix of district wide and building level initiatives. On the 16th, we hosted our first ever Best Practices Showcase! This convention style day was an effort to offer a differentiated professional development approach where NHSSD teachers had the ability to sign up for two workshops of their choosing. These

workshops were a mix of offerings facilitated from both internal NHSSD staff and other presenters from across the county. Topics ranged from Classroom Management techniques to School Law updates and much more in between. Our Keynote Event on the 17th was capped with an all day PLN (Penn Literacy Network) session with the incomparable Joe Ginotti. As is the case with all of his training sessions, Joe is a true practitioner with many great anecdotes and practical examples of literacy instruction for ease of implementation. The two days were well received and learning from these sessions are evident in the classrooms. We will continue this Best Practice Showcase for years to come. In upcoming June professional development days, we will wrap up our curriculum writing work, analyze our efforts this school year, as well as set the table for the 2017-18 school year.



(Principals "Turn and Talk" during a small breakout session on the PLN day)



Student Government with can drive for mini-thon

Hall decoration contest for Spirit Week capture important messages!



Read-A-Thon (HS students reading to UES)

