



# FROM THE EDUCATION OFFICE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ABOUT CURRICULUM AND PD HAPPENINGS IN NHSSD

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## BTSN and FALL CONFERENCES

As for Fall Conferences, again, great to see so many vested parents and guardians in our community. At the Elementary Schools, the parking lots and offices were hopping with parents waiting for their turn to meet the teachers! Of course, as the students get older, parent meetings tend to wane. Unfortunately, it's just not cool for parents to "mettle" in the lives of a teenager. Those that did meet with our secondary teachers were thrilled with the care and professionalism that was given to them. As always, parent conferences can be done at any time. In our schools, we have an excellent rapport with families that allows us to have open and meaningful dialog yearlong. Communication is important in our line of work and getting to parents early when there are concerns is the order of the day. Rule of thumb - **over communication beats under communication!**

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORNER

We had two excellent days in October (10+11) where we really were able to drill down and hone in on existing initiatives. Time was given to buildings, teams and PLC's for Assessment Development and analysis, Curriculum Review and Child Study Teams/Process. As the 2nd MP begins, our CSTs are hitting their collective strides. It is great to be a part of the CST meetings and witness the care and effort that our teachers, support staff, and administrators give to all of our students and families! Here are the links to the [PD overview](#) given, expectations for [CST](#) and our [NHSSD Instructional Model](#). It is always good to refresh and review as we get into the meat of our school year.

Our upcoming PD events are specific to Curriculum Review and Technology; however, February days are district-wide k-12 events! We will have a full day PLN training with Joe Ginotti on the 17th preceded by a Best Practices Showcase on the 16th. As I finalize the Showcase, if you are interested in leading a session for your colleagues, please feel free to email me your interest. Preparation for your presentation can count as your 192 time and/or any makeup days that we may incur during the winter months.

### UPCOMING PD EVENTS:

- **Nov. 28 and 30** - Performance Tracker Training (Train the Trainer - Curriculum Liaisons and Admin)
- **Dec. 7** - PLN (SS/Tech)
- **Dec. 8** - Canvas Early Adopters Training - (HS Tech)
- **February - 16 and 17** - District PD events (Ginotti/PLN and Showcase)
- Continued monthly Curriculum Review

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SOCIAL STUDIES Curriculum Review

## SECONDARY SCHEDULE UPDATE

Thank you for your time and input regarding a potential change to our Secondary Schedule. **At this time, we will not be changing the 8 pd. traditional schedule** but will continue to explore ways to best meet the needs of our students within the structure that we have. I will work with the principals in looking at the length of the student instructional day, transportation efficiencies and transition times for the 2017-18 school year. To be clear, the 6th grade schedule will remain, current science structure with alternating lab periods, as well as a blend of semester and A/B offerings will remain. While we all agree that 41 minute class periods is not enough time, the concerns about the shape of some program offerings and the uncertainty of planning for rotation drop periods outweighed the potential benefits of an alternative schedule. The 5 year plus Scheduling Committee has been officially retired!

## ASSESSMENTS and SLO

As PDE adopted Educator Effectiveness in 2012, a portion of the rating tool is earmarked for Teacher Specific and Elective Data. For some, that includes PVAAS averages as well as Student Learning Objectives scores. For others, Teacher Specific and Elective Data are derived from their SLO score. With that said, SLOs are developed in conjunction with your building principal. Many simply are utilizing existing Benchmarking as the SLO process. For instance, at the UES, a teacher may use Running Records data as their SLO measure. This eliminates the need to create another assessment to administer in order to satisfy the SLO requirement. At the HS, a teacher may use the CBA series as his/her SLO process. Again, this eliminates the need to create a unique assessment to satisfy the SLO requirement. The order of the day here is:

**Work Smarter...Not Harder!**

## CAMPUS REVITALIZATION

We are in full swing with the Campus Revitalization Project as evident by the construction vehicle takeover! It is amazing to me that we are able to keep a sense of normalcy amidst the demolition of the old structures. As this communication is being written, new walls and other features of the project are beginning to take shape! Soon enough, those who were displaced by the construction will be in their new homes. The phasing seems to be on time with little hiccups (knock on wood!). Kudos to our facilities team and all who have, and continue to, endure this temporary disruption.

### REMINDERS:

- Keep track of your Act 48 and PIL hours to be sure you are in compliance.
- Note PD and Assessment Calendar for Benchmark, PSSA and Keystone administration for your planning.
- Be sure to complete ACT 126 requirements (abuse/harassment)
- Take care of grading and communication to students and parents in a timely fashion. See your building handbooks for guidelines.
- In the secondary level, course selection and recommendations are approaching. Communicate with students and parents expectations and be mindful of scheduling deadlines.

### Helpful Links:

- [CAST - UDL](#)
- [Edutopia - 18 tips for DI](#)
- [RTI Network](#)
- [SAS](#)
- [NHSSD Curriculum Page](#)



*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern*