

Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting Notes

Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 6:30 PM

Attending: Board Members - Ray Tai, Barbara Garrity, Chiung-Yin Cheng Liu, Phyllis Pascucci
Administrators – Mary Beth Currie, Susan Alston, Barbara Duncan, Meryl Gill

Items for Discussion/Reports

1. Readers Workshop – Mrs. Susan Alston & Mrs. Meryl Gill
 - Mrs. Susan Alston (Supervisor of Humanities) and Mrs. Meryl Gill (Supervisor of Special Services) joined the meeting to update the committee with the Readers Workshop & LA strategies for classified youngsters.
 - The first draft issue of Indian Hill Literacy News was shared and reviewed with the committee. A revised version (see attached) will be distributed to all Indian Hill families by 3/16. The newsletter covers Reading, Writing, Word Study, Grammar, and Assessments for grades 4-6.
 - A proposal for Literacy Block Schedule for Novel Unit Study for 5th and 6th graders was also shared and reviewed with the committee. The proposal covers both reading and writing programs and will be used by the teacher to prepare the lessons.
 - Some highlights: 6th graders will study a novel for the whole class as a unit; kids can read whatever they are interested in reading once their homework assignments are done (however, some books may not be age appropriate and thus the teachers may discourage the kids from reading those books -- this is about the content, not the reading level. Kids are free to read beyond their target reading levels).
 - Mrs. Gill and Mrs. Alston have been observing classified kids in class, and confirmed that the current program works for both regular ed and special services pupils. Mrs. Gill also asserted that if there's any issue about the LA program for a classified kid, it is addressed via the IEP.
2. End of Year Algebra State Test
 - We have option to conduct the End of Year Algebra State Test or not to do it. Based on the teachers input, the administrators recommend not to do it since
 - ✓ we have our own end of year test
 - ✓ the score of state test comes back too late to be used for placement consideration
 - ✓ no district, to our knowledge, is actually using it
 - ✓ time will be much better used for instruction than having this test (we did it before, and the test did not yield any useful information beyond what we have learned from our own tests).
 - The committee agreed that we won't conduct the State test.
3. Policy Review
 - We completed reviewing additional policies and regulations for the 5000 series.

Items for Approval

1. Curriculum Summer Projects 2012
2. Donation
Holmdel Pop Warner to donate trophies to be placed in the W.R. Satz trophy case. The trophies represent the Championships from 2010 and 2011 by the Pee Wee and Jr. Midget footballs team.
Two Jersey Shore Championships (2010 and 2011),
One Division Championship (2010),
One Eastern Region Final Championship (2010).

Items for information

1. Next Curriculum Committee meeting is scheduled for April 16, 10:30am, Board Office at VS.

Respectfully submitted,
Ray Tai

Indian Hill Literacy News

March 2012
Volume 1, Issue 1

Tali Axelrod, Principal
Michael Ferrarese, Vice-Principal
Susan Alston, Supervisor of Humanities
Lori Hawksby, Reading Specialist

All literacy classes are preparing to launch a literature study unit. During this time, all students in a class will be reading and studying the same text. With teacher guidance and both in-class and at home reading, the students will work together to practice and enhance comprehension skills and strategies, literary elements, vocabulary, and writing.

As with all units, after the school/homework reading is completed, students can choose anything they want for leisure time reading.

Individual grade level details are below.

GRADE 4

READING: Short Story Genre Unit

Teachers have selected a variety of short stories covering different genres such as realistic fiction, biography, and historical fiction.

WRITING:

- Essay writing: the revision process
- Speculative writing: realistic fiction

WORD STUDY: Unit 2

- Lesson 7: Latin base "voc"
- Lesson 8: Latin base "spec, spect"
- Lesson 9: Latin base "terr"
- Lesson 10: Latin base "trac, tract"

GRAMMAR:

- Possessive nouns

ASSESSMENT:

Includes tests, quizzes, responses to literature through questions, open ended responses, writing assignments

GRADE 5

READING: Novel Study Unit

Each class will be reading one of the following novels as selected by the individual teachers:

- Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen
- The Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth G. Speare
- In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson* by Bette Lord
- The Mixed up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E.L. Konigsburg

WRITING:

- Open-ended questions
- Response writing
- Essay Writing

WORD STUDY:

- Wordly Wise: Lessons 6-10
- Vocabulary from the novel by chapter

GRAMMAR:

- Prepositions
- Adverbs
- Punctuation
- Sentence structure

ASSESSMENT:

Includes tests, quizzes, responses to literature through questions, open ended responses, writing assignments

GRADE 6

READING: Novel Study Unit

Teachers have selected *The Devil's Arithmetic* by Jane Yolen for the whole class novel study.

WRITING:

- Speculative: realistic fiction
- Open ended questions
- Response writing

WORD STUDY:

- Wordly Wise lessons continue in each classroom

GRAMMAR:

- Parts of speech

ASSESMENTS:

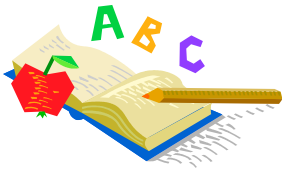
Includes tests, quizzes, responses to literature through questions, open ended responses, writing assignments



Village School Literacy News

March 2012
Volume 1, Issue 1

Brian Schillaci, Principal
Dionne Ledford, Vice-Principal
Susan Alston, Supervisor of Humanities
Erin Fetter, Reading Specialist



We are Readers and Writers! Look at what we will be up to!

GRADE 1

READING: Non-fiction Unit

Classes will be exposed to a variety of non-fiction texts. We will be exploring how to navigate these books through:

- Text features
- Questioning
- Comparing and contrasting
- Exploring new vocabulary
- Summarizing new information

WRITING: Teachers will be teaching one or more of the following:

- Letter Writing
- Persuasive Writing
- Non-fiction Writing

WORD STUDY: Words Their Way

(Sort 19 -23) long vowel patterns

- long a (CVCe, ai, ay)
- long o (CVCe, oa, ow)
- long i (CVCe, igh, y)
- long u (CVCe, oo, ui)
- long u (CVCe, ue, ew)

GRAMMAR: verbs (past and present tense), adjectives, contractions, punctuation, sentence structure

GRADE 2

READING: Poetry Unit

Classes will be exposed to a variety of poems with to:

- Identify different rhythm, rhyme, structure and shape.
- Identify literary language
- Build their fluency
- Notice theme
- Have reactions and make connections

*We will also be devoting time this month to test taking skills and strategies to prepare for NJ PASS.

WRITING: Non-fiction Writing Unit

We will share topics that we are experts in and create books with non-fiction text features:

- Procedural Books (How to's)
- All About Books.

*We will also be doing Picture and Poetry Prompted Writing for NJPASS practice.

WORD STUDY: Spelling patterns

- "ow" sound
- Silent letters
- soft c and hard c/soft and hard g

Vocabulary – Lessons 17-19

GRAMMAR: nouns, verbs, possessives, punctuation, sentence structure

GRADE 3

READING: Series Book Club Unit

Teachers will use the Poppleton Series to model and have class discussions about:

- Noticing patterns regarding setting, character's actions, problems, and relationships
- Characters acting out of character
- Comparing and contrasting characters and themes
- Making judgments

Students will be meeting in series book clubs to discuss the topics and patterns they have noticed in their own series.

WRITING: Realistic Fiction

We will create realistic stories with developed characters, actions, details, suspense, problems, and failed solutions.

*We will be practicing Expository writing also to prepare for NJASK.

WORD STUDY: Spelling patterns

- air/ear/ere/eir
- oi/oy
- ou/ow
- hard and soft g
- prefixes/suffixes

Vocabulary – Wordly Wise Unit 4

GRAMMAR: verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, quotations