

CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

April 2014



Laurie Mayes
Assistant Superintendent
810-626-2112

Chuck Hughes
Assistant Superintendent
810-626-2114

Renee Braden
Administrative Assistant
810-626-2107

IMPORTANT DATES

April 3:

2nd grade Language Arts PD
8:45-11:45 am in the PDC

1st grade Language Arts PD
12:30-3:30 pm in the PDC

April 7:

K-2 Math PD
8:45-3:45 pm in the PDC

April 8:

3-4 Math PD
8:45-3:45 pm in the PDC

April 9:

5-6 Math PD
8:45-3:45 pm in the PDC

April 10:

Curriculum Ad Staff
9:30-11:30 am

April 14-21:

Spring break, no school

April 23:

PDCT Meeting
4:30-6:00 pm in the PDC

April 28:

Algebra I PD
8:00-3:00 pm in the PDC

April 29:

Geometry & Algebra II PD
8:00-3:00 pm in the PDC

SRI WINDOW

SPRING: 3/3/14—5/23/14
(HS required)



NEW MEMBER TO THE CURRICULUM DEPARTMENT

Monday, March 24th, the Board of Education announced that Mrs. Dotty Selix will be the Assistant Director of Curriculum beginning July 1st, 2014.

Dotty has worked as a literacy coach and trainer for the last three years. There is no one who knows the history or the long-term vision for the Language Arts program better than Dotty. She has made this work her passion and her mission over these last few years. As we have moved the reading and writing up through the grade levels, Dotty has been pushed out of her comfort zone. She has met that challenge with more study, research and the pursuit of best practice for the age level she is working with. Dotty has built relationships with administrators and staff as she works side by side with them through the learning process. She works tirelessly to help make the learning as comfortable as possible, knowing that it is difficult for staff to make these dramatic shifts in their learning and teaching.

The outcome has been an increase in students' writing and reading abilities. As we move closer toward the Common Core assessment, Dotty will continue to work with staff to ensure that all students meet that assessment with confidence and the skills required to be successful.

It is with great pleasure and excitement that we welcome Dotty Selix to the Curriculum Department!

LEXILE LEVELS REQUIRED BY COMMON CORE

Are you getting all of your students to a reading level that will ensure success on the new Common Core assessment coming in 2015? Have you checked your SRI scores for all students?

Here are the lexile levels **required** by the Common Core:

2 nd -3 rd Grade Range	450-790
4 th -5 th Grade Range	770-980
6 th -8 th Grade Range	955-1155

March 21st Professional Development



Instructional Consultation Team Facilitators (standing) from all of the HCS schools facilitated a networking session for team members to learn from each other during the March 21st professional development day. They work to help create matches among students, instruction, and tasks.



Farms Intermediate teacher Rose Naughton (far right) teaches her peers how to use Google Drive during the March 21st professional development time.

Language Arts Professional Development For Teachers

by Laurie A. Mayes

Teachers at the elementary this year spent time learning a new scoring rubric for grading writing pieces. The conversation around expectations, consistency and criteria for each mode of writing was powerful. Teachers worked on narrative, opinion and informational pieces that their students wrote as on-demand pieces. Other components of workshop were also covered during professional development time. Conferring, the share, and active engagement each received a ½ day of training. Kindergarten also did some work around building content vocabulary in the classroom through read alouds.

Farms teachers also learned the new scoring rubric for narrative and opinion writing. They spent time observing and discussing lessons around conferring, mini lessons, and small group strategy lessons. A couple of new units were added to the curriculum this year. Fifth grade added a memoir writing unit as well as a non-fiction unit. Students' final products were amazing and showed much growth. Sixth grade added memoir, argument essay and a non-fiction writing unit. The argument unit created a building-wide debate over whether or not the building should serve chocolate milk. It was amazing work!

Ore Creek Language Arts teachers worked on Literary Essay and Op Ed (argument writing) writing units this year. Criteria, expectations, and

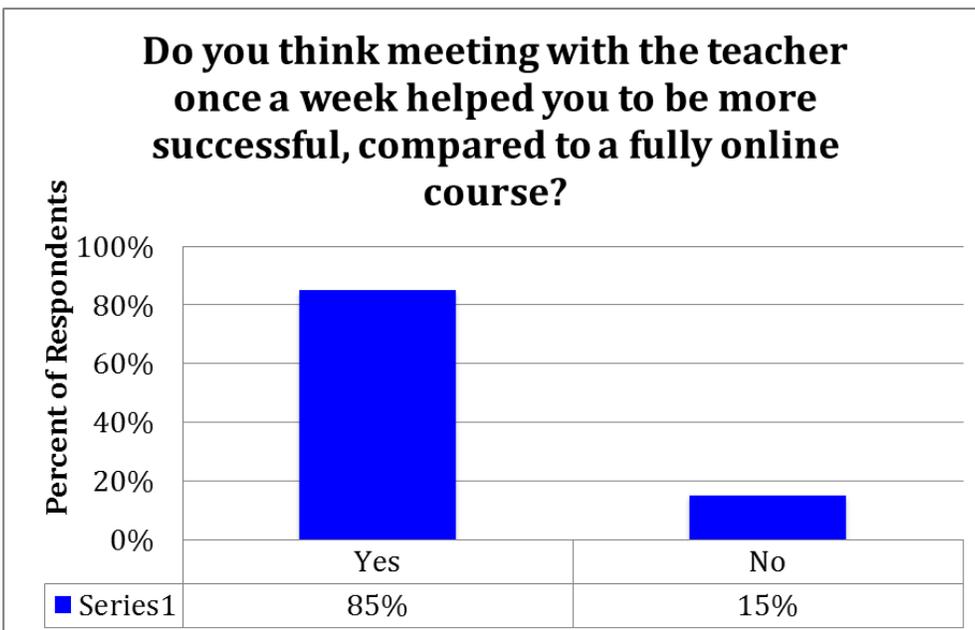
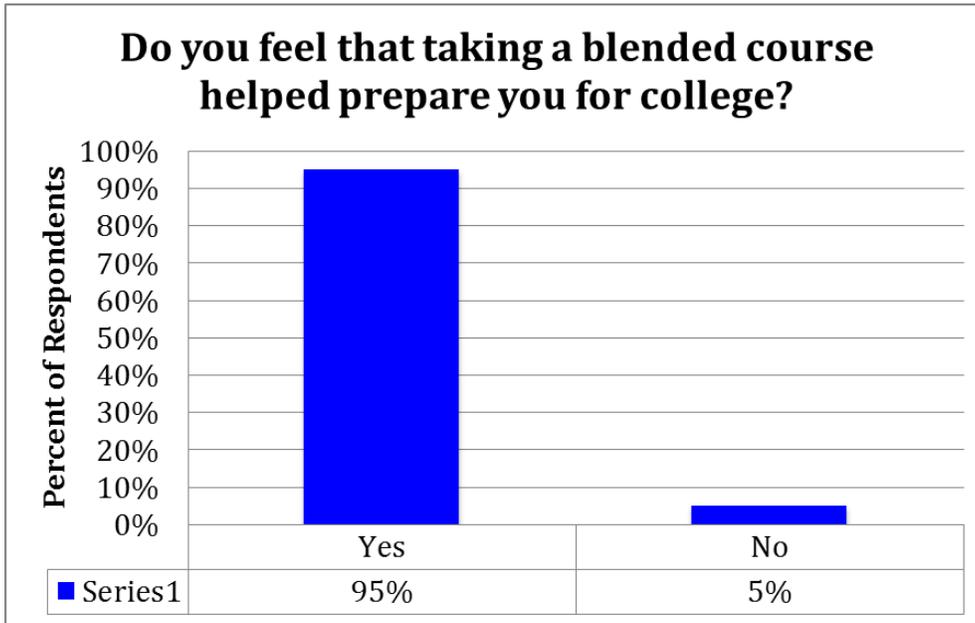
consistency in scoring were discussed. Unit lessons were reviewed, modeled and discussed prior to the teaching of each unit. Final student pieces were sorted to discuss expectations at each grade level. On-demand pieces were scored using a common rubric. Adjustments were made to the unit lessons with staff input. We also spent a half-day discussing book choice for students. We provided research findings about the power "choice" has on engagement, motivation, improved reading levels and increased conversations involving content and characters. This high level of thinking and conversation is required of all students in the Common Core.

High School Language Arts teachers also met this year to discuss the qualities of a "high quality" writing program. Ninth and tenth grade teachers implemented a literary analysis unit in the fall. They pre-assessed students, taught their unit and post-assessed students using common criteria and scoring rubrics. Unit lessons will be developed and implemented next year. They also spent a half-day discussing book choice for students. We provided research findings about the power "choice" has on engagement, motivation, improved reading levels and increased conversations involving content and characters. Each teacher is beginning to develop classroom libraries in their classrooms so that students have easy access to books.



BLENDING ONLINE LEARNING

Last fall, high school teacher Tiffany Duncan introduced an online blended U.S. Government course to students interested in trying the course as an online class. Students were required to meet with Mrs. Duncan at least once a week throughout the course. The course seems to have been a big success with the majority of students, indicating that they believe learning this way has better prepared them for college and that meeting with the teacher was helpful. The high school staff is in the process of creating more of these opportunities for future students. Note: Ethan Hawker is also teaching a blended calculus class this year.



More than 80% of principals say the Common Core has the potential to improve conceptual understanding, increase student skill mastery and create more meaningful assessments for students.

The National Association of Elementary School Principals

Student Success at German Day

High school teacher Pam Iden took a large contingent of students to the 2014 German Day at the University of Michigan last month. Congratulations to the following students, for outstanding performances:

Art – Group I: 3rd place:

“Reise nach Amerika” – Hartland High School – Nick Jordan (9th) & Clark Rogman (8th)

Commercials – Level 4:

3rd place: “Alles nicht so neu” – Hartland High School

Music – Group I:

1st place: die fröhlichen Bären” – Hartland High School – Nick Rize (12th), Ian Elphinstone (12th), Kyle Smith (lead singer – 10th), Kowall, Gerit Schiffer, Alex Cwick

Poetry – Level 1:

2nd place: Ryan Stempien (10th) – Hartland HS

Poetry – Level 2:

2nd place: Gillian Nemeth (9th) – Hartland High School

Skits – Level 2:

3rd place: “Heidi, Peter und die Zwiège” – Hartland High School – Most of 6th hour class (mainly Frosh)

Speaking – Level 1: 2nd place:

Raven Frederick – Hartland High School, 3rd place: Heather Whitman – Hartland High School, 2nd place: Eric Schumann (9th-German II H) – Hartland High School

Videos – Lower Level: 1st place:

“die Beets” – Hartland High School – Steven Tyler (9th), Caleb Krueger (9th), Logan Watson (9th), Nick Hawthorn (9th), Dakota Carey (9th)

2nd place: “Deutsch Sonnabend Live” – Hartland High School - Jessica Fedewa (10th), Maria Uribe (10th), Anna Thompson (10th)

3rd place: “Flips” – Hartland High School – Noah Nehring (10th), Stew Oldford (10th), Riley Mehki (10th)

HELPFUL WEBSITES



http://www.readworks.org/literary-reading-comprehension-passages?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=022514%20Literary%20EST

Reading passages with questions. By grade level and lexile score.

<http://www.amstat.org/education/stew/>

Statistics and probability concepts are included in K-12 curriculum standards, in particular the Common Core State Standards, and on state and national exams; however, few K-12 teachers have formal training or applied experience with statistical concepts. K-12 teachers need a place where they can find peer-reviewed teaching materials available in a standard format. Here is that place!

<http://www.nctm.org/resources/default.aspx?id=230>

Lesson plans for elementary, middle school, and high school math, from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

FIRST ROBOTICS TEAM PERFORMS

Hartland’s FIRST Robotics Team participated in the February 13-15, 2014 robotics competition. It was awesome to watch the “bots” work and to see the students excited about this opportunity. When entering the gymnasium, I (Chuck Hughes) thought it was a state playoff basketball game and I was in the wrong place. Fortunately, I found I was in the right place and impressed with the filled-to-capacity crowd watching the action.



Hartland High Schools FIRST Robotics bot #3536.



Coach Bednarski helps a HS student take the team robot back to the pits.

HARTLAND FALL 2013 MEAP PROFICIENCY RESULTS RELEASED

You will notice that Hartland students scored anywhere from 2% to 25% better than the state average on our assessments.

	Hartland	State
3rd Math	42%	40%
3rd Reading	72%	61%
4th Math	66%	45%
4th Reading	78%	70%
4th Writing	58%	50%
5th Math	53%	45%
5th Science	25%	17%
5th Reading	88%	72%
6th Math	62%	41%
6th Reading	51%	26%
6th S. Studies	84%	72%
7th Math	52%	39%
7th Reading	79%	60%
7th Writing	69%	53%
8th Math	48%	35%
8th Reading	83%	73%
8th Science	30%	20%
9th S. Studies	45%	26%

