MAINE SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #11

MSAD #11

CURRICULUM UPDATE

EARLY MATHEMATICAL THINKING

TEACHING AND LEARNING

HOW DO 4-6 YEAR OLDS LEARN MATHEMATICS?

Early Mathematical Thinking, Differentiated Instruction, Concept Mapping, and many other professional development opportunities were offered both in and out of district this year. See page 2 for a full list.

THE CURRICULUM REVIEW CYCLE

The Curriculum Review Cycle was initiated this year with a program review conducted by the English Language Arts K-12 Committees. The ELA Committee is composed of three district level committees, K-5 Reading, K-5 Writing, and 6-12 English Language Arts. These three committees worked together this year to produce the ELA Program Review document. This document is a visioning document for English Language Arts K-12. It lists the actions and resources that need to be put in place over the next five years. See the Curriculum and Instruction Website for more Information. www.msad11.org/elareview

Purpose of a Curriculum Review Cycle
To be reflective about our curriculum and instructional practices.
To provide information to the School Board in order to set funding goals.
To provide all curriculum areas fair access to curriculum funds in a rotation.

This will be the Curriculum Review Cycle:

- 2007-2008 English Language Arts, Special Education
- 2008-2009 Mathematics, Health/PE, Title I Program
- 2009-2010 Science, Visual and Performing Arts, Gifted and Talented Program
- 2010- 2011 Social Studies, World Languages
- 2011-2012 Technology, Career Prep, Athletics

...and the cycle starts over...

JUNE 2008

News & Info

Trimesters

Grades PK-5 Only
The School Board has approved trimesters for the elementary level starting 2008-2009. Reporting dates are below.

Progress Report Trimester One - 10/9/08
End Trimester One - Nov 25, 2008
Progress Report Trimester Two - 1/30/09
End Trimester Two - March 13, 2009
Progress Report Trimester Three - 5/1/09
End Trimester Three - June 10, 2009

SBG

Full Implementation Grades K-8
Virtually all teachers K-8 have piloted a standards-based report card this spring. Standards-Based Reporting will be fully implemented with all teachers and all content areas for grades K-8 starting Fall 2008. Powerschool Parent access will be opened to K-5 parents 3rd trimester of next year. Projected GAHS SBG reporting for Fall 2010.

Academic Audit

A Vision for the Future
The two year process of auditing our 6-12 academics culminated in a presentation to the School Board in January. The Academic Audit was essentially a *Comprehensive Needs Assessment*. The work has just begun. Educators at GRMS and GAHS brainstormed short term and long term goals this spring in order to address the needs. They are now working towards these goals. PK-5 will also develop goals to address the needs. An *MSAD #11 All-School Improvement Plan* is in the works based on these goals developed by educators.

New Website

The Curriculum Website
This site gets bigger and bigger. There is comprehensive information here about District Level Curriculum Work. Please visit!
www.msad11.org/curriculum

Literacy Specialists

MEA, DRA, and SRI data all show that approximately 30% of our K-12 students do not read on grade level. The Title I Program at the K-5 level has been significantly restructured in order to bring one Literacy Specialist to each of our Elementary Schools.

Professional Development Committee Formed

Teachers and Administrators throughout the district have requested more input on training and professional development that is offered. A PD committee has been formed in order to address this need. These are the members: Shelly Simpson, Chad Kempton, Raye Anne DeSoto, Sue Williamson, Kyle Smith, Anthony Anderson, Kathy Damon, Hope St. Denis, Barbara Miller, Tammy Allard, Mary Whitten, Deb Viens, Laura Woodward, Karen Moody, Terry McGuire, Pat Keene, Nancy Wise

Early Mathematical Thinking

How do 4-6 year olds make sense of mathematics? Some students can't count to ten while others can add large numbers very quickly. How do we close the gap early so the gap does not get wider? PK-2 teachers have been learning about this thanks to a grant through the DOE. This grant will continue next year when all PK-2 teachers will become involved.

Standards-Based Grading Frequently Asked Questions Document (SBG FAQ)

The SBG FAQ draft document was written in March, edited this spring by various groups of teachers, and published recently on the website. This document will be our guide as we move forward with standards-based grading. The SBG FAQ attempts to answer nagging questions about the Mastery and Grading Policy, late work, work habits, etc. There is still some work to do in the area of work habits and a committee will come together in August to discuss this.
www.msad11.org/sbgfaq

NWEA

Beginning next October, all students in grades 3-8 will take the NWEA MAP test in the fall and spring. This test used by 120 schools around Maine gives teachers clear targets to work towards with their students. It will also be important for our approach to RTI. The test itself is not very time consuming and provides instant, specific information for teachers. Students are measured on a continuum aligned to the Maine Learning Results. More information coming Fall 2008.

Professional Development Opportunities 2007-2008

19th Annual Reading Round Up
36th Annual Pupil Transportation Safety Conf.
56th NSTA National Conference on Science Ed.
70th Annual Conf for Secretaries/Adm. Assts.
A Day with Marcia Davidson -Social Studies
A Workshop for Women and Girls
AATSP 2007 Fall Conference
Academy for Math Leadership
Accreditation Workshop
Achieve Workhop
All State Music Conference
AP & Pre AP Spanish Workshop
AP English Language Workshop
Arts, Innovation and Creativity
Assessing & Advancing Progress in PLC Journey
ATOMIN 2008 Spring Conference
Back to Basics in Special Education
Boston National Conference on Science Education
Civil Rights Advisor Training
College Board Forum in Boston
Conference on Autism and Teaching
Coordinating Care for Children in School
Concept Mapping Using Inspiration w/Mary Burns
Developing Higher Level Thinking w/ Raye Anne DeSoto
The Differentiated Classroom
Early Mathematical Thinking Training
Engaging All Students in Learning
Engineering the Future Workshop
FDA/NSTA Food Science Professional Dev.
FLAME Conference
FoML 2007 Conference
Formative Assessment in the 6-12 Classroom
Graphic Calculators-Experienced Teachers
Guided Reading w/Paula Bourque
Haystack 2007 Fall Conference
Healthy Maine Partnership Workshop
Hear Me Now
INFORM training
Integrating Literacy with Science
iSucceed Training
JMG-OLC Annual Conference
Learning in the 2.0 world
Lifeskills Training
Literacy and Science with Nancy Chesley
MAHPERD Annual Conference
Maine Counsel for Soc. Studies Conf.
Maine Counseling Assn. Conf.
Maine Reading First Conference
Maine Youth Action Network
ME Youth Conference for Mediators 2008
Mini Conf. Dist. Diversity/Civil Rights Teams
MLTI MS Training
MEA Conference
Motivating Hard to Reach, Uninterested/Dis.Stud.
MSFSA's 5th Annual Summer conference
NASA Teacher Seminar
Native American Penobscot Nation Curr.
NERA Conference
No Citizen Left Behind
NSTA National Science Convention
Observing a linguistically & Cult. Diverse Student
PAAP Updates
Peer Mediation
Phonological and Concepts of Print Testing
Physical Activity in the Classroom
PreAP: Strategies in Math
Presenting information about Digital Storytelling
Putting Differentiated Instruction into Practice
Six Trait Writing Framework
Speech Language Supporting Literacy Skills
Standard Based Report Card Training
Strategic Instruction & Planning for the MEA
Strategies for the Writer's Notebook
Strengthening Your Foreign Language Instruction
Strengthening Your Secondary Art Program
Student Assistance Team Training
StudyWiz
Take Time Conference
Teach the Teachers Maine Native American Hist.
Teacher Training/Challenger Space
Teaching Number in the Classroom w/Sue Williamson
Teaching Reading & Writing in NE
The Art of Teaching Writing with Lucy Calkins
The Arts in Maine Schools Statewide Conf.
The Best New Young Adult Books
The Power of Learning
The Whats and Hows of Reading Fluency
Training for Braille Producers
Transforming Learning Communities
Unifying Themes in the New Maine MLR
Using Technology to Improve Understanding of Mathematics w/Pam Buffington
Visual Literacy Childrens Drawings Workshop
We The People: Citizen and the Constitution

More Info..

LAS

Our Local Assessment System
The MSAD #11 Local Assessment System is alive and well. The approval process for common assessments has been significantly streamlined. Communication has improved with the LAS website. Comprehensive Data collection of our LAS will commence this summer 2008. See the entire Local Assessment System at www.msad11.org/las

INFORM

The Missing Link
Data-driven dialogue is a critical link to district-wide school improvement. We are always searching for what works with our students. Often, we search blindly. Next year will see the implementation of INFORM, a database to hold student achievement information that will help us to make informed decisions that address student needs early and often.

RTI

Response to Intervention
RTI is coming to a school near you. The new IDEA regulations say that by 2010 schools must have a comprehensive, systemic 3-tiered, pre-referral process. This process must include the tracking of student achievement and specific, research-based instruction to help struggling students. This is a Regular Education System that must be in place by law. Stay tuned....

Curriculum Mapping

Time to Realign the Curriculum (Again)
Updated Maine Learning Results as of Fall 2007 means we must once again realign our curriculum. K-8 teachers will begin this work this summer using web-based software called Curriculum Mapper.

Syllabus Work

GAHS creates common syllabus format
Accreditation work and anticipation of the DOE's Syllabus approval process has prompted GAHS to look at and update their course syllabi. Course syllabi will have a common format, be aligned to the Maine Learning Results and have common assessments.

Summer Institute

MSAD #11 Summer Institute
Many course offerings for educators in and out of district.