

EdServ Update: News You Can Use from Your Colleagues in Ed Services

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Secondary Special Education Mathematics Analysis

Educational Services Coordinator Rosa Serratore has begun meetings with several special education mathematics teachers to work on scope and sequence for the special education math program. Resources for adapting curriculum, articulation with feeder middle schools, and course and text approval are being addressed. For more information, contact Rosa in Ed Services: serratore@smmusd.org

Monthly Reading Specialist Meetings Commence Soon!

On October 15, Coordinators Amy Teplin and Cindy Kratzer will begin monthly meetings with district reading specialists. These meetings will provide a forum for discussing best practices in working with struggling readers, a text-based discussion of *Reading Instruction that Works*, and opportunities to deepen content knowledge in the various aspects of reading and literacy. For more information, contact Amy Teplin: teplin@smmusd.org

Curriculum Mapping Begins for Secondary Mathematics

Curriculum mapping for Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry begins on October 4 with a representative team of secondary teachers from all sites. Teachers expressed great interest at the August 31 district day for continued cross-site articulation so that this is not a once-a-year event. Teachers serving as their site's curriculum mappers will facilitate collaboration at their sites. E-mail list serves have been provided to continue the team work.

For more information, contact Rosa in Ed Services: serratore@smmusd.org

Middle School Science Curriculum

On Tuesday, September 25, middle school science teachers came together for the "unveiling" of the new middle school science curriculum maps. The group discussed implementation issues related to the new science curriculum materials and engaged in collaborative planning, using the maps as a springboard for discussion. Teachers also had the opportunity to provide input into the "Beliefs about Science" document, which was drafted earlier this summer. The science curriculum maps will be revisited and revised in the spring and summer after teachers have had an opportunity to use the new texts and materials.

Several teachers have volunteered to develop and pilot performance-based science assessments and rubrics for scoring. Maureen Bradford will assist in the research and development of these standards-based assessments.

Become a National Board Certified Teacher in SMMUSD!

Ever thought of becoming a National Board Certified Teacher? Here are some Q and A's to help you if you are interested!

Q: What is National Board Certification?

A: National Board Certification, offered by The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), is a voluntary professional growth opportunity that occurs over a period of 1 to 2 years where candidates demonstrate in-depth content knowledge and teaching practices measured against high and rigorous standards.

Q: How do I know if I am eligible?

A: Teachers are eligible to seek National Board Certification if, **at the time they apply**, they hold a Baccalaureate degree; have completed 3 years of teaching experience prior to submitting an application; have held a valid state teaching license for those 3 years, or; where a license is not required, have taught in schools recognized and approved to operate by the state.

Q: How does a teacher become a candidate with SMMUSD?

A: If you choose to pursue National Board Certification, you do NOT have to go through the district. You can pursue certification independently. However, if you would like financial support from SMMUSD, you must sign up with Susan Samarge ASAP in Educational Services: x70-341 or ssamarge@smmusd.org. Then you need to go online at www.nbpts.org and sign up to get started!

Q: What are the benefits of receiving support with SMMUSD?

A: The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District offers support to NBC candidates by: Reimbursing candidates for all application fees (approximately \$2,500); offering supplemental support, such as sub days and reimbursement for materials required as part of the process, while teachers go through the certification process; when and where available, providing a consultancy-type atmosphere and coaching support from teachers who have already received certification.

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Lesson Link Orientation Draws Over 130 SMMUSD Teachers

This week Lesson Link teachers gathered at the PDLC, McKinley and Webster for this year's Lesson Link Orientation. Representing 40 Lesson Link teams on 13 SMMUSD campuses, these participants learned about the principles of Lesson Link and met to begin setting goals for their team collaboration this year.

Figure 1--Lesson Link Orientation at the PDLC



DataDirector 2.0 – SMMUSD's Data Warehouse

Individual school sites are receiving intermediate *DataDirector* training from Hank Kratzer, with assistance from Educational Services coordinators, during their school's banked time. Highlights of the current *DataDirector* professional development include *Creating Your Own Standards-Based Assessments*, and *Modifying and Customizing Existing Reports*. Many teachers are already using the information in *DataDirector* to prepare for Academic Conferences and identify appropriate materials and strategies for their new students.

What kind of information would you like to find out from Ed Services? Contact Cindy Kratzer, Editor of *EdServ Update*, to let us know your requests: kratzer@smmusd.org

Fall District Literacy Assessments

Diagnostic literacy assessments are in process throughout SMMUSD. Kindergarten teachers are administering the *Revised Emerging Literacy Survey* to their students, regarding letters, sounds, concepts of print, and words. Kindergarten students will be tested in January and May to ascertain progress toward meeting standards.

First- and second-grade teachers are administering an individual oral reading assessment, the *Leveled Reading Passages Assessment Kit (LRPAK)*. The LRPAC, implemented district-wide last year, assesses students' levels of decoding, rate, fluency, and comprehension. These tests are re-administered in May. Reading and resource specialists have also found the LRPAC beneficial in assessing older students.

Middle school English and Humanities teachers just finished the *Holt Entry-Level (Diagnostic) Assessment* to identify student strengths and weaknesses in reading comprehension, writing strategies and language conventions. See *DataDirector EXAMS* for results.

All diagnostic and formative assessments in literacy are aligned to state Reading/ Language Arts standards and are imported into *Data Director*, so that teachers and principals can do ongoing analysis of student achievement throughout the year.

Survey of High School Math Teachers on CST Achievement

This month, Maureen Bradford will meet with high school math teachers to administer a survey designed to gain high school teachers' perspectives on issues related to CST math achievement. Prior to taking the survey, teachers will be provided with their school's longitudinal CST achievement in mathematics.

Lesson Link Make-Up Facilitator Training

On Friday, September 14th Educational Services Coordinators Cindy Kratzer and Amy Teplin led the Lesson Link Facilitators' make-up training. Eleven teachers attended the full-day training at the PDLC for new facilitators, and eight teachers attended the half-day afternoon session for veteran facilitators in the Board Room. The content of the workshop included developing tools for facilitating groups of colleagues, strategies for deepening reflective conversations, and skills in fine-tuning the teaching point of a lesson. Almost 50 teachers from kindergarten to high school in 14 out of the 16 SMMUSD schools have now been trained as Lesson Link facilitators.

Elementary P.E. Professional Development

On September 5, Susan Samarge-Powell, Tristen Macon and Amy Teplin from Educational Services facilitated a professional development workshop for elementary P.E. coaches at McKinley Elementary School. This workshop provided coaches with an overview of the district P.E. curriculum, as well as a review of state P.E. standards and the state-mandated Fitnessgram test. Presenters from the United States Tennis Association introduced the new tennis curriculum, and shared practice activities. Coaches from ten out of the eleven elementary schools attended the workshop training and were able to network with one another and share lesson ideas and instructional strategies. Feedback from evaluations included comments such as, "I enjoyed getting together with other P.E. coaches, meeting them, sharing ideas, etc." "Good materials. Clear and to the point." "The tennis activities were helpful. I will use them."