



2017-2018 ACADEMIC UPDATES

WILLINGBORO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

August 28, 2017

Purpose

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- To offer academic updates for the 2017-2018 school year inclusive of:
 - ▣ Curriculum Updates;
 - ▣ Auxiliary Operational Updates; and,
 - ▣ Willingboro High School Rebranding Update.



Curriculum Updates





Mathematics Curriculum Updates

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- All District schools should be following the District's updated curriculum that is based on the NJDOE curriculum framework.
- The classroom resource has changed to Eureka Math.
 - ▣ *Eureka Math* is a cohesive math resource that spans from Kindergarten to High School. This coherent approach allows teachers to build on what students already know and prepare them for the next grade. When implemented faithfully, *Eureka Math* will dramatically reduce gaps in student learning, instill persistence in problem solving, and prepare students to understand advanced math.
- Schools will utilize research based computer programs to provide diagnostic information (i.e. iReady) and benchmarks (i.e. edConnect) to track student achievement and provide remediation/enrichment when needed.
- Teachers of Math were given a chance to participate in summer professional development opportunities to learn the new resource and updates to the curriculum. Those who did not attend during the summer will receive training in September. The curriculum will be available on Google Docs and Jennifer Brandon will regularly meet with grade level teams to provide a curriculum implementation guidance. This will ensure access to clear expectations. Comprehensive Professional Development, which includes job-embedded PD, will continue during the 2017-2018 school year.



Science Curriculum Updates

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- All District schools should be following the District's updated curriculum that is based on the NJDOE curriculum framework.
- The newly updated Science curriculum reflects the state mandated move to the Next Generation Science Standards.
 - The Next Generation Science Standards support the research by emphasizing a smaller number of core ideas that students can build on from grade to grade. The more manageable scope allows teachers to intertwine practices and concepts common to all scientific disciplines which better reflects the way students learn.
- Schools will utilize research based computer programs to provide diagnostic information (i.e. iReady) and benchmarks (i.e. edConnect) to track student achievement and provide remediation/enrichment when needed.
- Teachers of Science were given a chance to participate in summer professional development opportunities to learn the new resource and updates to the curriculum. Those who did not attend during the summer will receive training in September. The curriculum will be available on Google Docs and Jennifer Brandon will regularly meet with grade level teams to provide a curriculum implementation guidance. This will ensure access to clear expectations. Comprehensive Professional Development, which includes job-embedded PD, will continue during the 2017-2018 school year.



English Language Arts Curriculum Updates

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- All District schools should be following the District's updated curriculum that is based on the NJDOE curriculum framework.
- Schools will utilize research based computer programs to provide diagnostic information (i.e. iReady) and benchmarks (i.e. edConnect) to track student achievement and provide remediation/enrichment when needed.
- Use of Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment system to determine students' reading levels
- Focus on Guided Reading (small group) instruction
- Teachers of Reading and Writing were given a chance to participate in summer professional development opportunities to learn the updates to the curriculum. Those who did not attend during the summer will receive training in September. The curriculum will be available on Google Docs and Sharon Williams will regularly meet with grade level teams to provide a curriculum implementation guidance. This will ensure access to clear expectations. Comprehensive Professional Development, which includes in-class coaching (CLI), will continue during the 2017-2018 school year.

Auxiliary Operational Updates





Auxiliary Operational Updates

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- We have received support from our Executive County Superintendent to move to a **Departmentalized Setting in our Elementary Grades 3rd-5th**. This allows teachers to focus on a particular curricular area. This benefits our students in multiple ways:
 1. It allows instructors to teach the specific subject that they have the most interest in;
 2. It allows instructors to dig deeper in the subject matter to attain a deeper understanding and in turn helps them to give the students a greater attainment of the concepts below the surface of the instruction;
 3. It will assist in differentiating the learning for pupils who have a variety of levels of understanding; and,
 4. Lastly, we of course hope that this action in conjunction with our professional development and curriculum adoption/implementation accelerates our students' performance on high stakes assessment.



Auxiliary Operational Updates

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- We have recently submitted an application for the NJDOE Division of Early Childhood Education and Family Engagement: **Preschool Education Expansion Aid (PEEA) Grant**.
 - ▣ Our Director of Special Projects attended the informational session and led our effort to submit what we believe to be a very strong application to be considered in this competitive grant process.
 - ▣ If we are successful, this grant would help us to possibly:
 - Expand our Pre-Kindergarten offerings to more students;
 - Lower class-sizes from 18 to 15; and,
 - Return the 3 year old program to our District.

Willingboro High School Rebranding Update





Willingboro High School Rebranding Update

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- **Master Scheduling** has been completed and final schedules have been mailed;
- The additional **AP Courses** that were previously discussed have been added (9 vs. 4) and students have been enrolled;
- The new **CAP Agreement** has been Board approved and will be shared with and explained to applicable families during an upcoming meeting;
- The **RCBC-College Readiness Now Grant** mathematics class has been scheduled and populated;
- The Alternative Program has been officially approved by the NJDOE to be recognized as an **Alternative School**; and,
- The **Uniform Vendor Agreement** has been formalized, the information has been shared with families through multiple measures, our vendor has confirmed that our parents are purchasing the uniforms.
 - ▣ The uniform policy/code of conduct has been updated and put forth for Board review and approval;
 - ▣ I have personally met with concerned students and responded to parents;
 - ▣ The purchase order to procure gift cards for needy families has been processed; and,
 - ▣ Lastly, we are in conversations with our faith-based partners regarding uniform donations.



Willingboro High School Rebranding Update

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- We are continuing our conversation with the US Army regarding the **STARS Program** and **March2Success** that were previously discussed;
 - ▣ We expect to get these programs running no later than January 2018.
- As previously discussed, we investigated the possibility of full-year course options for all of our PARCC tested courses; however this option simply made classes sizes too large, took away the flexibility needed to successfully complete master scheduling and reduced the opportunity for credit recovery.
 - ▣ However we do offer full-year courses for all AP Courses as well as one intense remedial section for both English 9 and Algebra I.

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