



Curriculum & Instruction Newsletter

Importance of Curriculum and Instructional Alignment

Hello Team,

A strong alignment of curriculum, instruction, professional development, standards and assessments can point our schools and district toward improved student achievement. The alignment of curriculum and instructional can produce many benefits; such as, improved student performance on standardized tests. In addition, carefully aligning your instruction with learning goals and assessments, can accelerate learning and results for scholars.

The purpose of the monthly Curriculum and Instruction newsletter is to provide you with strategies, ideas, techniques, resources, and updates around curriculum and instruction in an effort to support your instructional work within the classroom setting. The Curriculum and Instruction team is excited to share instructional best practices and resources with you. We hope that you will find this resource helpful to you as you plan your instructional work throughout the school year. Please let us know how the Curriculum and Instruction Department can provide additional support.

We hope that you are having a great school year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Stacey Nichols
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction



Learning is not
the product of teaching.
Learning is the product
of the activity of learners.

John Holt

EVERYDAYPOWER

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION TEAM



Dr. Stacey Nichols

*Assistant Superintendent of
Curriculum and Instruction*
stnichols@rgsd.k12.mo.us
Extension 20120

Tonya Ross

District Curriculum Coordinator
tross@rgsd.k12.mo.us
Extension 20127

Dr. Phillip Kennedy

Executive Director of Assessment
pkennedy@rgsd.k12.mo.us
Extension 20124

Barbara Sharp

*Professional Development
Coordinator*
bsharp@rgsd.k12.mo.us
Extension 20126

Dr. Jesolyn Larry,

Director of Technology
jlarry@rgsd.k12.mo.us
Extension 10101

Darion Hopkins

Administrative Assistant
dhopkins@rgsd.k12.mo.us
Extension 20125

Diane Roche

Administrative Assistant
droche@rgsd.k12.mo.us
Extension 20121

What is the PDC?

Did you know that your school has a representative to support you in your professional learning goals? The Excellence in Education Act requires each school district to have a Professional Development Committee (PDC). The PDC for the Riverview Gardens School District is comprised of a special education liaison and a representative from each school within the Riverview Gardens School District. All members of the PDC for the district work collaboratively to ensure continuous school improvement. The members of the PDC work to analyze various forms of data, attend a minimum of (2) meetings per month with the professional learning team for their school, provide feedback regarding professional development needs, plan the Teacher of the Year Recognition Breakfast, render feedback in the development of the PDC plan and budget, provide recommendations and support for new teachers, and is an active participant in professional learning for their building. Finally, the PDC representative for each school provide the initial approval for professional development via KickUp. If you haven't met your PDC representative, get to know them TODAY!

Did You Know? Key Elements of Differentiated Instruction

Amid Covid-19, differentiated instruction is needed more today than ever. It is a method that leverages deliberate practice targeted to the skills students need to work on—and that may be different for individuals or groups of students. With differentiation in the classroom, teachers can meet the needs of diverse learners. Differentiated instruction is based on modification of four elements: **content**, **process**, **product**, and **affect/learning environment**. This modification is guided by the teacher's understanding of student needs, the students' readiness, interests, and learning profile.

- In terms of content, teachers can differentiate the “methods that students use to access key content”

For example, students can acquire new information and ideas through reading independently or with a partner, reading a novel or listening to it on tape, doing online research or communicating with experts, participating in group demonstrations, or engaging in small-group instruction.

Common Formative Assessments

Assessing scholars is of vital importance in informing us about student learning. Data from Common Formative Assessments (CFA) will also provide you information for instructional planning. As we begin the process of administering the CFAs, your feedback is very important. We continue to revise the CFAs and get them to where they will be the most beneficial to our scholars learning.



Formative Solutions will be providing professional development for their platform on Monday, November 1st. For those who are not able to attend your assigned session, it will be recorded for you to view later.

What is the Formative platform? Formative is the platform that RGSD is using to administer the district's Common Formative Assessments (CFAs). You should have received an email with login information from Formative. In addition to administering the district's CFAs, you will also be able to use Formative for your own classroom assessments.

CFA rollout After all the PD that has been done in developing questions for the CFAs, it is now time to administer Unit 2 CFAs. Since you are probably into Unit 3 of your curriculum, we will use the data from the Unit 2 CFAs to determine retention and mastery of those standards. The CFAs for Unit 2 will be given in ELA and Math for Grades 3-8.

The window for administration of Unit 2 CFAs will be November 3 - 12.

Administering the CFAs

The CFAs for ELA and Math are different due to the content of the subject. **The ELA CFAs** are just one assessment for each unit. **The Math CFAs** are broken down by standards covered throughout the unit. These will be shorter than the ELA CFAs. For math, you will need to plan how and if you want to spread them out for the November administration window.

More information will be sent out on administering the CFAs.

Winter Star Benchmark dates: January 10 - January 28



Are You Interested in Some Cool Websites for Teachers?

Cult of Pedagogy: <https://www.cultofpedagogy.com/blog/>

This is a free teacher blog, which contains videos, teacher resources and sample forms, cumulative tips and teacher ideas to help you along our journey.

New! New Teacher <http://newteacher.com> is a site run by Harry and Rosemary Wong, the authors of many books and articles for new teachers including *“The First Days of School: How to Be an Effective Teacher.”* This site is free and non-commercial.

Can You Spot a Dangerous (Phishing) Email?



1. **Look for an incorrect domain name in the email address** - hackers impersonate companies or well-known institutions.
2. **Urgent or threatening Language** - emails that insist immediate action must be taken - creating a sense of urgency.
3. **Misspelled words or grammatical errors** - typos, poor grammar, and many mistakes in the emails are more likely to be fraudulent.
4. **Suspicious attachments or incorrect links** - don't click!!!

November 2021 Calendar of Events for the Curriculum and Instruction Department

District Level Professional Development - November 1

CSIP Curriculum & Assessment Meeting - November 10
 CSIP MOT Leaders Meeting - November 19
 CSIP Effective Instruction Meeting - November 30

MRI Professional Learning Schedule K-1st Grade - November 4, 8, and 10

Instructional Coaches Professional Development - November 5 and November 12
 Secondary: 8:30AM-11:30AM (Location TBD) Elementary: 12:30PM -3:30PM (Central Office Board Room)
 Professional Development Committee Meeting - November 9
 Site-based Consultancy for the following schools: Gibson, Glasgow, Highland, and Lemasters - November 12

The first CFA will be administered during November 3 - November 12
 Librarians PLC Meeting - November 17
 Curriculum Writing - November 22

