Curriculum & Instruction Newsletter

Hello Team,

MAP Testing is upon us! Setting high standards for all students is intended to help our scholars to grow into responsible and confident individuals and community members who can function to the best of their abilities. In addition, MAP Grade-Level tests are used to measure our scholars' academic progress and the impact of instruction on their learning. As educators, we want our scholars to be successful. Please know that you have put forth every effort to ensure that our scholars will do well during MAP Testing this school year.

The Curriculum and Instruction Department
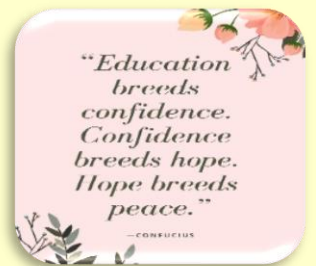**wish you all the best on the MAP Test!**

Go and Put Your Best Foot Forward!

In Partnership,

Dr. Stacey Nichols
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

"Education breeds confidence. Confidence breeds hope. Hope breeds peace."
—CONFUCIUS

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION TEAM

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Spring Assessments

MAP and EOC testing is upon us.

The MAP testing window is April 4 - May 27.
The EOC testing window for the High School is April 11 - May 13.

All scholars must be tested in person at the school where they are enrolled.
MoCAP students will also have to test in person at their school.
The District must achieve a 95% participation rate.

Resources and manuals for MAP can be found at:
https://dese.mo.gov/college-career-readiness/assessment/grade-level

Resources and manuals for EOC can be found at:
https://dese.mo.gov/college-career-readiness/assessment/end-course

The Final Star assessment window will be April 4 - May 27.
Buildings will determine this schedule so it does not interfere with MAP and EOC testing.

Any questions, contact your building Administration or Dr. Phillip Kennedy at Ext. 20124.

MAP Ready?

Consider the QAR Strategy (Question Answer Relationship):
Students need to be explicitly taught how to recognize the questions being asked and how to locate the information to help them answer. One approach that can help students do this is the Question-Answer Relationship (QAR) strategy. This strategy teaches students how to distinguish the types of questions they are being asked and how to find the answers to those questions. The QAR framework provides a clear language for readers to use when talking about the reading. QAR empowers students to build an understanding of the text while using literal and higher-level thinking skills. QAR supports students with working through word problem in math too!

The Four Types of Questions in the QAR Strategy

- **Right There:** A literal one-answer question with information clearly provided in the text. Readers are prompted to look within the text for keywords or phrases used in the question to find the answers. The answers provided will be very similar as there is often one best answer.
- **Think and Search:** This type of question can be answered using information from within the text, but it is not clearly located in one spot. Readers need to think and search several sections of the text to find pieces of information and then piece them together to come up with an answer.
- **Author and Me:** Answers to these questions are not found solely in the text. Using information from the text and their own background and experiences, readers will make inferences to help answer the question. While the answer is not clearly in the text, the reader does need to read it to fit it all together. The answers will be more varied, as readers are using their own experiences to build their ideas.
- **On My Own:** The answer is not found in the text. This type of question requires readers to use their background or prior knowledge and own ideas to answer the question. The answers provided will be less dependent on the text and more dependent on the reader's experiences and knowledge. There will be a great deal of variance between answers.

Are You Ready for an UPGRADE?

At the end of four years of approved teaching experience, if all other criteria have been met, a certified educator may apply for the UPGRADE of your professional teaching license/Career Continuous Professional Certificate. The Career Continuous Professional Certificate (CCPC) is valid continuously for 99 years, depending on an individual meeting the following guidelines:

- Participate in a district-provided mentoring program for two (2) years.
- Successfully complete thirty (30) contact hours of professional development. This may include college credits (1 semester hour equals 15 contact hours of professional development).
- Participate in a beginning teacher assistance program offered by a Missouri college or university, Regional Professional Development Center (RPDC), or a professional teacher organization such as MNEA or MSTA.
- Successfully participate in your employing school's annual Performance Based Teacher Evaluation process.
- Develop and implement a professional development plan/professional growth plan* that is on file with the district.
- Complete four (4) years of Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) approved teaching experience.

Check your certification status today! If you are a new teacher with less than five years of experience, contact Barbara Sharp at bsharp@rgsd.mo.us to confirm your completion of the BTAP and mentoring program.

E-Rate: Universal Service Program for Schools and Libraries

The FCC's E-Rate program makes telecommunications and information services more affordable for schools and libraries. With funding from the Universal Service Fund, E-Rate provides discounts for telecommunications, Internet access, and internal connections to eligible schools and libraries. The ongoing proliferation of innovative digital learning technologies and the need to connect students, teachers and consumers to jobs, lifelong learning, and information have led to a steady rise in demand for bandwidth in schools and libraries. In recent years, the FCC refocused E-Rate from legacy telecommunications services to broadband, with a goal to significantly expand Wi-Fi access. These steps to modernize the program are helping E-Rate keep pace with the need for increased Internet access.

What benefits are available under E-Rate program? Eligible schools and libraries may receive discounts on telecommunications, telecommunications services, and Internet access, as well as internal connections, managed internal broadband services and basic maintenance of internal connections. Discounts range from 20 to 90 percent and are based on the poverty level of the schools. Rural schools and libraries may also receive a higher discount. Recipients must pay some portion of the service costs.

How does the E-Rate program work? An eligible school or library identifies goods or services it needs and submits a request for competitive bids to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). USAC posts these requests on its website for vendors to bid on. After reviewing the vendors' bids, the school or library selects the most cost-effective eligible products and services using price as the primary factor. It then applies to USAC for approval for the desired purchases. Next, USAC issues funding commitments to eligible applicants. When a vendor provides the selected services, either the vendor or the applicant submits requests to USAC for reimbursement of the approved discounts. The bid request and competitive bidding processes must comply with FCC rules and also state and local procurement requirements. When the E-Rate program was established in 1996, only 14% of the K-12 classrooms had Internet access.