Moon Area School District FAQ

Curriculum Design

Our curriculum is designed to be a well-charted course that leads students from kindergarten to graduation with the goal of preparing students for college and career success. While adhering to state and national academic standards, we challenge students to engage in rigorous learning experiences that balance knowledge-building and application. Students cultivate twenty-first century skills as they collaborate with peers supported by highly skilled teachers. Adhering to a clear K-12 vision for student success allows teachers to set the bar high, while providing support and encouragement allows our students to clear it.

Literacy:

• **Primary** - We believe the foundation of our mission, to educate every student, is to ensure each student can read. Our goal is for all 3rd graders to read at or above grade level. This literacy goal provides them with the best possible opportunity to be successful as they advance.

• **Intervention** - With reading proficiency as a goal, we realize that some students will need additional support in order to be successful. To provide this support, a system of intervention has been implemented at the early elementary level. Through the analysis of student data and with teacher input, students are targeted for small group instruction in order to advance their skills when it is needed. This intervention is designed to be temporary, with the goal of exiting students when necessary goals have been acquired.

• **Content Literacy** - While we recognize the need to teach foundational reading skills to our primary students K-2, we also understand that reading is a skill that needs to be continually developed. As students progress, reading becomes increasingly more difficult. This means that teachers must support content area reading through adolescence in order to build the skills necessary to read like a scientist, a historian, or a technician.

Textbook/Novel Adoption:

All new textbooks and novels go through a standard process of adoption. These selections are made with classroom teachers by reviewing multiple options. The selection is then proposed to the School Board Education Committee for initial approval. From there, texts must go on public display for no less than fifteen days. This is advertised through the District website and is included in the public minutes of the Education Committee. During this period, the public is welcome to review the texts and ask any questions that they might have regarding the selection. Finally, the text goes before the full Board of Education for approval.

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STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math)

We believe that our students should be ready for the future that they will be integral in creating. To build the skills necessary to be competitive in the twenty-first century, we have built a K-12 curriculum that promotes communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. These skills are paired with technical skills that allow students to grapple with relevant, problem-based learning experiences.

- **Coding** - The language of computer coding has become a new literacy. From kindergarten, our students begin a progression that can take them from programming robots to run simple mazes to completing courses in Advanced Placement (AP) computer science.

- **Making** - Students will use their hands along with their imaginations and problem solving skills in order to complete rigorous, relevant tasks. This is a reimagination of the way students learn that allows them to be creators.

Elementary Report Cards

- **K-2** - Reporting progress toward achievement of standards/skills is being reported on a standards-based report card in grades K-2. The goal of this report card is to provide more accurate communication to parents regarding what is being taught at the primary level.

- **Third and Fourth Grade** - Grades 3 and 4 continue to have grades communicated as percentages, however the skills under the core subjects have been revised to represent the standards of the Pennsylvania Core.