

JUNE 2023

HASTINGS HIGHLIGHTS

*The monthly newsletter of highlights in
Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment*



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PORTRAIT OF A HASTINGS LEARNER (POHL)

During the month of June, curriculum work was heavily focused on the development of action plans for two of our Portrait of a Hastings Learner action steps; (1) an advisory-like opportunity to support SEL and students' sense of belonging and (2) a community charter around behavioral expectations. Two faculty teams worked on developing 18-month action plans for each of these goals. The session began with students presenting focus group data from students in grades 7-12. Teams then generated concrete action plans, using the student feedback to inform the design process. The purpose of each of the action steps was also clearly articulated. District and building administrators will work together over the summer to review the draft action plans, determine implementation timelines, and outline measures of success. The action plan development teams will then conduct final reviews in the fall. Two additional action plans will be developed over the summer around the other two action steps associated with the Portrait: enhanced authentic learning opportunities (including interdisciplinary units/lessons) and restorative practices.

Looking ahead, the Portrait will become the strategic vision of all that we do in Hastings. While still currently in development, it is already serving as the umbrella for the curriculum work outlined below.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The special education advisory committee met to finalize a series of action plans they have been developing over the course of the school year. Final feedback was provided and a review of the associated timelines for each action step took place. These action plans were presented at the June 20, 2023 Board of Education meeting, along with an update on the committee's work since the fall. Implementation has already begun for a faculty capacity-building pilot around analyzing and using data to inform instruction. Please [click here](#) to view the presentation slide deck.

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ALGEBRA CURRICULUM WORK

Melissa Szymanski and Greg Stephens, mathematics department chairperson, recently met together with middle and high school algebra teachers. The team reflected on the Algebra Regents examination, examined the standards crosswalk to ensure aligned understanding of recent changes and to identify content areas necessary to augment in the curriculum, and briefly reviewed performance level descriptors.

SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM WORK

Melissa Szymanski and Greg Smith, social studies department chairperson, met to begin planning for next year's K-12 social studies inquiry work. In alignment with the Portrait of a Hastings Learner goal involving authentic, interdisciplinary learning, the inquiry will focus on the intersection of social studies and writing. Together, they identified goals for the work, participants, and logistics. Faculty will be taking an appreciative inquiry approach, highlighting exemplary areas of practice, celebrating the tasks that led to student success, and using them as a springboard for enhancement of the curriculum.

BEST WISHES FOR A JOYFUL SUMMER!