



HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON UFSD

MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER

OFFICE OF
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION
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Dear Hastings Community,

We have BIG news to share! We are delighted to announce the release of the Hastings K-12 curriculum story in the form of brief, curriculum synopses which have now been posted to the website. These documents serve to articulate our curriculum with the purpose of celebrating and building momentum for the great things that are already happening in the district, strengthening a coherent path for student learning, and examining what we are doing as an evolving story. By publicly posting these documents, we are demonstrating our commitment to transparency, partnership, and trust between teachers, administrators, and parents. Each of these documents provides a current snapshot of where we are right now. Each has been intentionally designed to be a continual work in progress that is updated as the curriculum grows and shifts over time.

Within each synopsis, you will find a brief overview of the course or subject area of focus, the big ideas associated with units of study, related standards, culturally responsive content and practices, plans for assessment, and resources. Teachers had the option to work alone or in collaboration as they crafted their synopsis. Department chairpersons, administrators, and I reviewed everything prior to posting what was created to our website.

I would like to offer a series of thank yous to our teachers. First, thank you for your hard work to create these documents. Second, thank you for being vulnerable and deprivatizing your practice. Making your curriculum available to colleagues and families highlights your excellence on ongoing partnership. Third, thank you for your openness to possibility. In true a learning organization, innovation and iteration are key.

I would also like to thank our families in advance. Thank you for celebrating the efforts of our incredible teachers. Thank you for recognizing the fine work that is happening throughout the system. Thank you for approaching the synopses with a spirit of inquiry.

The link to the synopses can be found [here](#). Please enjoy!

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Summer Professional Learning

Administrators, department chairpersons, teachers, and I have been working to plan for summer professional learning opportunities. This summer, key areas of focus will include enhancements to our multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) process, augmenting the Sparks curriculum at the elementary and middle school, supporting culturally responsive pedagogies, planning for the middle school mathematics resource pilot, deepening our science alignment work, exploring the social studies/ELA Framework, and inviting new expertise around project-based learning.

K-12 Mathematics Committee

The K-12 Mathematics Committee has been working together to create a rubric that will scale and further define the aspirational vision indicators the group created together. This rubric will support the vision to come to life in planning, lesson facilitation, and professional learning.

Middle School Mathematics Resource Pilot

Efforts to select the middle school mathematics resource that will be piloted in the 2021-2022 school year in grades 6-8 have been ongoing. Members involved in the selection process have been learning about different resource options and using indicators developed by the K-12 Mathematics Committee to anchor discussions about the strengths and weaknesses of each. Participants have also been provided with access to the online component associated with the resources we are exploring so they can experience them as a teacher and as a student. Thank you to Greg Stephens, Jennifer Spirelli, Kevin Hanlon, and our teachers for their leadership and partnership in this work.

Science Alignment

We have begun an audit of the K-12 science curriculum to determine the extent to which there is alignment between the current curriculum and the new New York State Science Learning Standards. This process has included the creation of alignment grids to formalize the extent to which the alignment of each unit of study is beginning, developing, teachable, or complete. This will help the prioritization of future professional learning efforts while also formalizing a standards-based roadmap of units of study. Special thanks to Robin Farrell and Melissa Shandroff for their amazing efforts and leadership to support this work. Thank you to the teachers in the department for their high level of commitment to the alignment process.



WE CONTINUE TO REMAIN INTERESTED IN YOUR FEEDBACK IN SUPPORT OF OUR COMMITMENT TO CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT. PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO REACH OUT TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS AS WE NAVIGATE THE PANDEMIC TOGETHER.

BEST REGARDS,

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