



CURRICULUM CORNER

October 16, 2023

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Pursuit of Professional Development by Dr. Evans

Your personal professional development is an important part of your growth as an educator. Being strategic and purposeful in your planning is a great way to maximize the opportunities within and outside of our district. You should pursue areas that interest and intrigue you or that will bring you new knowledge and skills to do your job better or to develop an area that will enable you to be more effective.

Building your IPDP around these interests and areas is the first step. Writing your IPDP in a broad enough way so you are able to utilize various ways to reach your goals is important. That way, if you see a class, workshop or even a book that helps you learn, you are able to utilize it in reaching your goals.

Our district is one of the only places where you can use informal hours to help you move on the salary schedule if you are a teacher. Being able to use your professional development hours even when they aren't formal classes is a great benefit to you in terms of movement on the salary schedule. Don't forget about this option as you plan your professional development!

On PD days, the PDC tries to plan a wide variety of topics in the PD days, based on the spring survey and hopefully you are able to find sessions that line up with your goals. If not, please know that you are always able to arrange a visit or a separate pursuit on that day—just talk to one of the PDC members about your thoughts prior to making plans. Our district is also fortunate to have a healthy professional development budget for workshops and conferences. Seeking opportunities that align with your IPDP and your professional goals is another way to further your learning.

Please make sure you fill out your green form well in advance when you want to attend an outside the district PD workshop or conference and follow the directions on the form. Taking control of your professional growth and learning and taking advantage of all the professional development opportunities in our district is a great way for you to grow professionally and to customize the opportunities to suit your goals and aspirations.

Tips from the Technology Team

AI is changing education for the better!

It can help teachers personalize learning, simplify tasks, and create more engaging classrooms. AI is efficient and adaptable, so teachers can use it to enhance educational outcomes for all students.

Check out this link for specific ways to use generative AI in your classroom: [\[link\]](#)

Here are a few examples:

- Use AI to create personalized learning plans for each student.
- Use AI to create rubrics and provide feedback to students more quickly.
- Use AI to generate practice problems and quizzes for students.
- Use AI to create interactive simulations and games that help students learn.
- Use AI to translate assignments into different languages so that all students can participate.

AI is a powerful tool that can help teachers create a more equitable and inclusive learning environment for all students.

Launching Literacy

Literacy Coaches - Betsy, Kelly & Stephine

We would like to thank you for allowing us to work with some of your students. As a result of the assessments, here are a few helpful videos for areas that presented a need for review.



- B vs. D Video [Jack Hartmann](#)
- Continuous Blending [Dyslexia Classroom](#)
- Fluency Strategies to Use in the classroom [Reading Rockets](#)

Each building will receive a binder that has the testing booklets for you to review. If you would like to discuss additional ways that skills could be reviewed in your classroom, please reach out. If you would like to try to implement new skill groups or need help kick starting independent reading, please reach out. We are here to help!

Please remember that Learning A to Z (Raz-Plus) and Epic! are great resources for younger students who are working on building their reading stamina. Half of the designated independent reading time could be Raz-kids or Epic! and the other half could be with books. This is also a great resource for sub plans.

TESTING TESTING TESTING

Testing Coordinator - Kristen Rodkey

I can not believe it is October already! I am updating you on some important announcements from the testing world.

The Acadience Reading beginning-of-year window has officially closed for all grades 1-6 students. Thank you to everyone who submitted their students' results into the ALO system. If you need assistance accessing and interpreting the data on the website, please don't hesitate to contact me. Additionally, helpful tutorials are available in the Acadience/ALO Resource Google folder that guides navigating the various reports.

We are currently in the process of completing the Acadience Math window. The beginning of the year math window will be closing on **October 13th**. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding this assessment.

Regarding high school news, some of our 10th and 11th-grade students will take the PSAT on Thursday, October 12th. Mrs. Rapp has been in communication with the students who will be participating in this test.

We will transition into the district's first round of gifted and state testing for our elementary students. Specifically, our second and fourth-grade students will undergo Iowa/CogAT testing from **October 16th to November 3rd**. Please refer to your building's testing schedule for specific dates and times.

Furthermore, the 3rd-grade fall ELA OST testing window will be open from **October 23-27**. Each building will determine the specific assessment dates and times, so please follow your principal's guidance.

To keep you informed, here are some important links that you may find helpful:

- Acadience/ALO Resource Folder: [Click Here](#)
- Testing Schedule: [Click Here](#)



Dana Berlin

Dana is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters