

**Special Darien Board of Education**

**Curriculum Committee Meeting**

**Thursday, June 13, 2024**

**8:00 a.m.**

**Darien Public Schools' Administrative Offices**

**35 Leroy Avenue**

**Board of Education Meeting Room**

**AGENDA**

1. Literacy Update
2. Curriculum Writing and Revision Update
3. Introduction to Eduplanet21
4. Public Comment\*
5. Adjournment

**\*\* The Board of Education meeting will be available to the public in person and via Zoom. Wearing masks is optional and seating is limited by room capacity. Doors open at 7:45 a.m. for the 8:00 a.m. meeting.**

**Those members of the community wishing to participate in public comment should join the meeting via Zoom: <https://darienps.zoom.us/j/92064019126>**

**Those members of the community wishing to view only, should do so through the Darien Youtube link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUnnvYKBfFrTWQRuoB6OZA>**

**In order to reduce audio interference, members of the community are requested not to simultaneously view Youtube while participating on Zoom.**

# **PK-3 Literacy Update**

**Board of Education  
Curriculum Committee**

**June 13, 2024**

# May and June Activities

- **Communication**
- **Leadership Planning**
- **Site Visit**
- **Curriculum Work**
- **Action Research/ Professional Learning**

## > **Communication:**

- Update to Steering Committee
- Meeting with pilot teachers

# > Leadership Planning:

- Committee Co-Chairs met with HMH Pilot Manager
  - Professional learning plan
  - Timeline
  - Logistics

## > **Site Visit:**

- 11 DPS educators visited Branford
- Overview meeting with Branford staff
- K-3 classroom visits
- Debriefs with Branford teachers
- DPS Literacy Committee Debrief

## > Curriculum Work:

- Dig into Teachers Manuals and online platform
- Into Reading Scope and Sequence development
- Planning for implementation (instruction and assessment)

# Pilot Details

*Into Reading* core program:

- Fall pilot - August through December
- Two grade level teams across the district\*
- Grades 1, 2 and 3
- On-site professional learning in August; ongoing support throughout the fall
- Ongoing feedback and data collection

\*Three Grade 1 teams



## > **Action Research/Professional Learning**

- Dig into Teachers Manuals and online platform
- Into Reading Scope and Sequence development
- Planning for implementation (instruction and assessment)

# Action Research-Vocabulary and Writing

- Vocabulary instruction - new resource:
  - Word Love
  - Zaner-Bloser Vocabulary
  - Tim Rasinski's Building Vocabulary
- New writing units with grammar instruction
- Bookworms materials to enhance current program

# **Action Research / Formative Assessments**

- **Develop formative assessments for comprehension in all grades**
- **Embed IABs/FIABs across the year in Grades 3-5**

# Action Research / Fluency Instruction

- Identify high-leverage fluency strategies for whole class & small group instruction
- Allocate specific time in schedule for fluency
- Assess WPM on running records
- Add WPM to DPS Benchmarks

# Professional Learning

- PLC and grade level meeting time to strategically incorporate the components of effective literacy instruction
- Professional learning in new resources
- Continued professional learning in SOR and targeted small group instruction

# Discussion

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## Memorandum

To: Darien Board of Education Curriculum Committee

CC: Alan Addley, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

From: Amy Fedigan, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent of Schools

RE: BOE Curriculum Committee- Curriculum Writing & Revision Update/Introduction to Eduplanet 21

Date: June 13, 2024

Attachment: Algebra 1 [Stage 1 Eduplanet 21 Unit Example](#)

A viable curriculum is a critical component of the instructional core. In the Darien Public Schools, we aim to leverage the expertise of our District colleagues as we design our ELP through grade 12 curricula across departments. As previously shared, we have a newly revised systemic Curriculum Writing and Revision Cycle and Curriculum Development Timeline which is helping us to provide consistency in curriculum development across the District. Understanding by Design (UbD) is the framework applied in the design of our curriculum. The UbD framework UbD consists of three writing or design stages and is a way of thinking purposefully about curricular planning, it is not a program. A primary goal of UbD is developing and deepening student understanding. As curriculum is written and revised, we have an opportunity to make explicit connections to our [Darien Public Schools Vision of the Graduate](#). Additionally, our curricular revision efforts are concentrated in the design principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) to ensure representation, engagement and accessibility for all learners.

In preparation for summer curriculum work, we have been professional learning to all staff members who will be engaged in this work. It is essential that we have a common foundational understanding so that we can achieve the goals of a cohesive and consistent curriculum. We are offering a variety of dates and times to make this professional learning opportunity accessible to all staff members. As of the date of this memo, more than 100 DPS staff members across our 7seven schools have engaged in these professional learning sessions. A strength of our teaching and learning approach in the Darien Public Schools is that our curriculum isn't just aligned with standards; it's also crafted by our own expert teachers within the District. During the June 13th, Board of Education Curriculum Committee meeting we will share an overview of the design principles of Understanding by Design (UBD), our District specific approach to the systemic improvement and strengthening of our

curriculum and will we introduce Eduplanet21, the software platform used to house our curriculum. An example of an Algebra Unit in Stage 1 has been attached to this memo as an example.



# **Curriculum Writing & Revision Update Introduction to Eduplanet21**

**BOE Curriculum Committee Meeting  
June 13, 2024**

# Agenda

- Understanding by Design (UbD) Curriculum- Alignment to the Strategic Plan
- Darien Public Schools Curriculum Writing and Revision Cycle
- Overview of the “Three Stages” of Curriculum Writing
- UbD Curriculum and Instruction
- Introduction to Eduplanet21
- Curriculum Writing and Revision Cycle- 2024-2025 Projects

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Our Long Term Transfer Goal is...to demonstrate how Understanding by Design (UbD) principles and key terms are being applied to curriculum design, curriculum revision, and teacher practice in Darien Public Schools.

# Alignment to Our District Priorities

## Goal 1: Enhancing Teaching and Learning

Standards & Frameworks: National and state guidelines that support sequential student learning in designated content and skill areas.

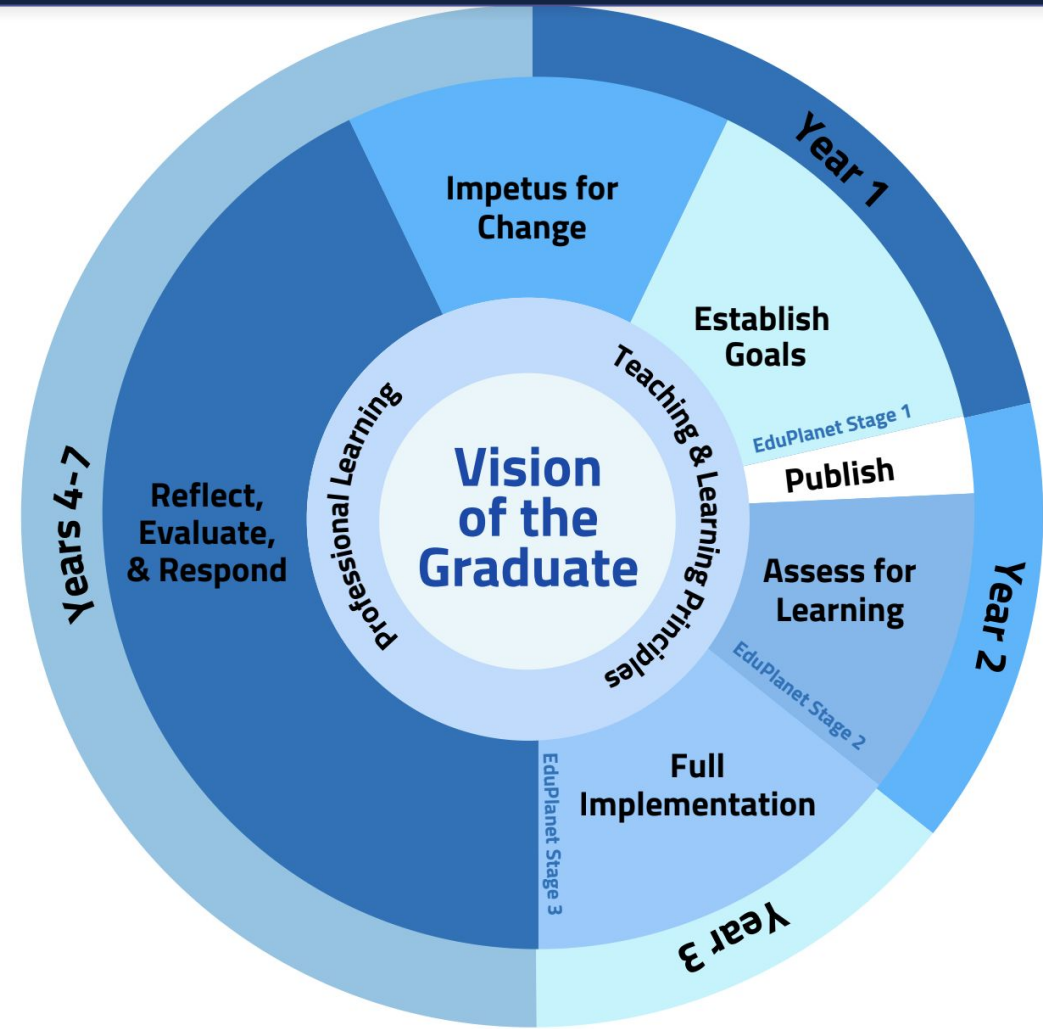
## Goal 3: Vision of the Graduate

Exemplar of what a DPS student embodies by the time of graduation.

## Goal 4: Expanding the Professional Capacity of Staff

Develop engaging learning experiences and instructional activities that support students in achieving desired learning outcomes, ensuring alignment with the assessments and enduring understandings.

# Curriculum Writing & Revision Cycle



# **The Philosophy of Understanding by Design (UbD):**

- 1. Curriculum is focused on development and deepening of student understanding, and the application of learning**
- 2. Understanding occurs when students make sense of and transfer their learning through authentic performance**
- 3. Planning backward occurs through a three-stage design process**
- 4. Teachers coach understanding.**
- 5. Curricula are reviewed against design standards. Student work is reviewed in PLCs to make adjustments to curricula**
- 6. We can work more effectively by sharing through the Eduplanet21 platform**

# Three Stages of Understanding by Design

## 1: Identify desired results

Determine the overarching **learning goals** and **essential understandings** that students should achieve by the end of the unit or course

## 2: Determine acceptable evidence

Design **authentic assessments** and **performance tasks** that provide **evidence** of students' understanding and mastery of the desired outcomes

## 3: Plan learning experiences and instruction

Develop engaging **learning experiences** and **instructional activities** that **support students** in achieving the desired results, ensuring alignment with the assessments and enduring understandings

# STAGE 1

## 1: Identify desired results

\* WHAT \* & \* WHY \*

Determine the overarching learning goals and essential understandings that students should achieve by the end of the unit or course.

- Which **standards** are we targeting for this unit? Content standards, Vision of the Graduate
- What are the **long-term transfer goals** of the course? Why are they important?
- What **essential questions** drive the unit?
- What concepts should students **understand** after this unit is over?
- What will students be able to **transfer** to other classes and future studies?
- What key **knowledge** will students learn?
- What **skills** will students develop? What will they be able to do?

## STAGES 2 & 3

### **2: Determine acceptable evidence \* HOW \***

Design authentic assessments and performance tasks that provide **evidence** of students' understanding and mastery of the desired outcomes.

### **3: Plan learning experiences and instruction \* HOW \***

Develop engaging **learning experiences and instructional activities that support students** in achieving the desired results, ensuring alignment with the assessments and enduring understandings.



# What does UbD mean for instruction?

1. Focus on essential understandings
2. Transfer of knowledge and skills across courses and years
3. Plan with the end goal in mind
4. Differentiate and provide multiple entry points
5. Design authentic assessments that allow students to show their understanding in multiple ways
6. Foster curiosity through active learning
7. Collaborate and give feedback on a cycle: Analyze student work in PLCs, and revise curriculum systematically

## UbD + Eduplanet21

**Understanding by Design** is a philosophy. It encompasses the backwards design principles we use to:

- write curricula
- determine units of learning and content
- ensure our course content is aligned with standards

**EduPlanet21** is an online platform that reflects the principles of UbD. It helps us:

- plan full courses
- design units
- share our resources with the community and with each other

# Benefits of Eduplanet21

- Consistency
- Alignment
- Real time change
- Transparency
- Shared understandings
- Systemic processes and professional learning

# Eduplanet21 : Blueprint

## Curriculum Blueprint

Courses by Subject



**English Language Arts**

Published

**Mathematics**

Published

**Health & Physical Education**

Published

**Science**

Published

**Social Studies**

Published

**Technology**

Published

**World Languages**

Published

**Visual and Performing Arts**

Published

# Curriculum Writing & Revision Cycle

