DECEMBER

DIMAN NEWSLETTER

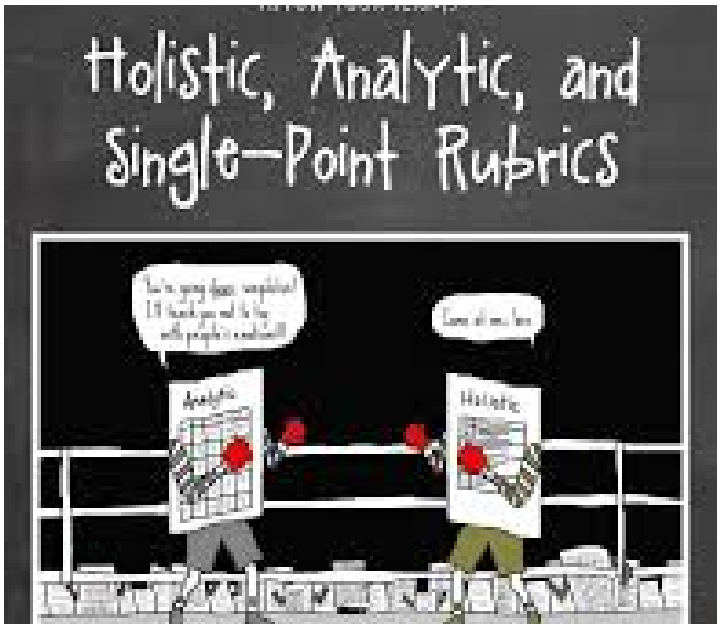
19 December 2025

IXL, KAMI, and CHORUS!

We are excited to introduce a new professional development series designed with busy schedules in mind. Teachers are invited to participate in brief 15-minute after-school sessions and complete the remaining 15-minute requirements asynchronously to earn PDPs.

Each PD session will highlight a range of educational technology platforms and include follow-up activities that allow participants to demonstrate their learning.

The January and February PD schedule is linked here. All sessions occur in the library.





Creating an Analytic Rubric

An analytic rubric breaks an assignment into separate categories, allowing teachers to score and provide feedback on specific aspects of the work, such as presentation, content, etc. This approach helps students understand exactly why they received a particular score and allows teachers to justify their evaluations clearly. Because analytic rubrics are most valuable when precise, targeted feedback is important to add these rubrics. When using an analytic rubric, teachers can allow students the opportunity to choose how to present their work, as long as they meet the rubric target points. See a sample rubric here.

Lincoln Electric: Train-the-Trainer

Recently Mr. Desousa and Mr. Denis went to the world headquarters for Lincoln Electric in Cleveland, Ohio to attend the train-the-trainer class. Lincoln is the world leader in welders. This was a one week course on everything welding related. Completing this program allowed them to gain access to Lincoln's books, lesson plans and other free instructional tools. Attending this program will help build Diman student's knowledge from classroom to shop by integrating both knowledge bases. The Lincoln Program also utilizes the VR welder that Metal Fabrication/ Welding Program has in shop.

PISA MEASURES MEDIA AND AI LITERACY

The OECD's PISA 2029 Media and Artificial Intelligence Literacy (MAIL) project is a new assessment designed to measure how well 15-year-old students can navigate, evaluate, and use digital media and artificial intelligence in responsible, effective, and ethical ways.

Recognizing that young people increasingly interact with online information, social media, and AI-driven tools, the initiative goes beyond traditional literacy to focus on critical thinking, credibility evaluation, ethical awareness, and informed decision-making in digital environments.

The assessment will use realistic simulations of online and AI-supported contexts to examine how students interpret information, recognize misinformation, understand the social and ethical implications of AI, and communicate in digital spaces. By capturing these competencies, MAIL aims to provide policymakers and educators with insights into how prepared students are for participation in an increasingly AI-mediated world, with framework development underway and results expected to be published in 2031.

- To learn more about the PISA 2029 Media and Artificial Intelligence Literacy study, click here.
- To learn more about the OECD, click here.
- To learn more about PISA, click here.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **December 22- All Freshmen Vocational Teachers Update Grades in Aspen**
- **December 23- Semester 1 Grades Close**
- **December 23- Aspen Closes**
- **December 23- 11:58 a.m. Student Early Dismissal**
- **January 4- Aspen Reopens**
- **January 7-8- ACCESS Testing**
- **January 9- Semester 1 Grades Due at 8:00 a.m.**
- **January 13-14- ACCESS Testing**
- **January 19- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No School**
- **January 21-22- ACCESS Testing**
- **January 28- 11:58 Dismissal; Faculty/Staff PD**
- **February 3-4- MCAS Science Retest**



TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2027- NOMINATE AN AMAZING TEACHER TODAY

Do you know an exceptional teacher who creates an affirming, culturally responsive classroom where students are challenged, supported, and engaged in meaningful learning? A teacher who builds strong relationships with students, families, and the broader school community, and who is passionate about high-quality instruction and improving education for all? Nominate them for Massachusetts Teacher of the Year, an opportunity to celebrate outstanding educators, amplify their voices, and expand their impact. Submit the nomination form today—nominees will receive a congratulatory email and an invitation to apply, and more information is available on the Massachusetts Teacher of the Year Program page.