

Summary

March 24, 2009

Science Articulation Team Meeting

Elementary Cadre:

- Working toward open classrooms to see science in action
 - Each cadre teacher will observe 2 schools this spring
 - Evidence – science notebooks
 - Observing best practices across district
- Focus on standards – grade level mastery
- Redoing kits – Cadre teachers bringing info back to schools during LID

WA

- After Best Practices Summit, cadre teachers sharing learning targets with each other and colleagues
- Building science plan in CIPP plans
- 5th grade at WA is focus, doing formative assessment for WASL
- Science fair – 4th & 5th grade parents coming to see Thursday night

MV

- Enrichment teachers are doing science enrichment

Middle School

- Updated power standards to revised science content (systems) standards, not application or inquiry standards
- Got a lot done
- Don't have common assessments except CBAs
- Don't have application/inquiry common assessments
- FHMS – sharing learning targets across content, visiting each others' classrooms
- Would like to look at schedule for additional time

WHS

- Started aligning power standards to revised national science standards (most teams)
- Have talked about common assessments – challenge to give up “my” test for some people
- Ag Science/Science Dept. – best place ever been – more time to work together
- Starting to build curriculum maps

WSHS

- Identified power standards for physical science. Need Bio power standards.
- Begun to match standards to resources
- Haven't built common assessments yet – day/night school
- Classroom interventions – built in
- Enrichments – not yet
- New adoption in progress
- Shelby working with Steve and Tracy

HEC Board Update

- Middle school science teachers were concerned that 8th grade students were either given the wrong information or a lack of information regarding what science courses to sign up for. The “science pathways” brochures were not handed out during middle school registration.
- There is a need for an updated version of the “science pathways” brochure due to the changes in the HEC Board college admissions requirements. Shelby Lockhart will gather input from all teachers, admin, and counselors to develop an updated brochure that helps students and parents make informed choices about signing up for science course.
- Beth Hammerberg proposed that Ag. Science NOT be on the brochures, but rather the “ag science” course be called Biology and Physical Science.
- There was a proposal to see if, upon reviewing their schedule and getting to correct science pathways information, freshman could re-register during Freshman Orientation or iFrosh day.

What message can we send to families and staff about science education?

- Science education starts in 1st grade. If elementary teachers are not teaching to the standards, students are set up for failure because they start out with a “gap” in their science education.
- Low-income and Hispanic students REALLY need access to science in elementary.
- Starting with this year’s Juniors...students need to get the information regarding college entrance requirements for science.

Why teach to the standards?

- Because we have to.
- Because it is what is best for students.
- Because it makes it easier to trust that the students who are in the grade level below the one you are teaching are getting the foundation skills, knowledge, and understandings so that they can be successful in your class.

What support do science teachers need so that they can keep teaching to the standards and working as a PLC?

- A template that shows what is covered in each grade level so that teachers can help student’s access prior knowledge.
- TIME to collaborate and get into other science teachers’ classrooms.
- Moodle trainings so that teachers can do online collaboration.
- High school teachers would like Shelby to cover classes in May so that they can get into each other’s classrooms.