

CURRICULUM REPORT

I. Preparation for Illinois Assessment Tests

District #10 students at grade levels 2-8 participate in a statewide testing program that will take place during the second and third weeks of April.

At the second grade level, the students are administered the Illinois Grade 2 Assessment of Reading and Mathematics Test. This test is also referred to as the TerraNova Assessment Test. The purpose of the assessment is to measure the progress of second grade students in meeting the Illinois Learning Standards for reading and mathematics.

For grade levels 3-8, the students are administered the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT). ISAT measures the performance of students and schools against the Illinois Learning Standards.

The state assessment scores are used to measure adequate yearly progress (AYP) for all public schools. To prepare our teachers for the assessment process, staff members have been informed of the state's objectives (standards) in which the test was developed. In addition, grade level meetings are being completed that focus on the interpretation and application of test scores.

II. Internal Review Process

As required by the Illinois State Board of Education, each individual school must design and implement an Internal Review Process. This process includes reviewing test scores and identifying building goals through collaboration with staff.

For many years, all of the required procedures have been an integral part of each principal's leadership process. Principals and their teams of teachers have completed Internal Review training provided by the DuPage County Regional Office of Education. In completing the process, the principals and their staff members are involved in a yearlong analysis of test scores and implementation of identified goals.

III. Talented and Gifted Program (TAG)

In addition to parents being informed of the TAG program and their child's TAG status during Parent/Teacher Conferences, parents of students new to the TAG program have received a letter documenting their child's entry into the program.

Students qualifying for possible entry into the Gifted level of TAG (highest level) will now be involved in further assessment. The additional assessment will determine if a student qualifies for an individual TAG plan. Administered by District #10's school psychologist, each qualifying student will receive an individual I.Q. test. The assessments will be completed by the end of January.

IV. Kindergarten and Preschool: Registration, Round-Up and Screenings

At this time of the year, preparations are taking place to implement Kindergarten Registration, Round-Up and Screening, as well as Preschool Round-Up and Screening.

The purpose of the Kindergarten Registration and Preschool Round-Up is to identify students for entry into the programs for the following school year. With registration materials being distributed to parents at both events, an overview of the program will be provided at the Preschool Round-Up.

Screening opportunities are provided to students entering kindergarten or preschool during the following fall. Components of the screening include vision and hearing, speech and language, motor skills and basic concepts assessment. New this year, kindergarten and preschool screening will be combined. Furthermore, if students have received the screening in prior years with no concerns mentioned, completing an additional screening will not be recommended.

In addition, Benson Primary School is preparing for Kindergarten Round-Up that will take place on May 13th from 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The purpose of the Kindergarten Round-Up is to provide parents with an overview of the kindergarten program and give next year's kindergarten students an opportunity to see the classrooms.

An additional event, Kindergarten Parent Orientation, will be offered to parents of entering kindergarten students. On May 6th, parents are being provided with an overview of the kindergarten program. This event begins at 6:30 p.m. with a tour of Benson Primary School.

Numerous staff members are involved in the development of the events. The team of staff members includes the kindergarten and preschool teachers, building specialists from Benson Primary School and Franzen Intermediate School, Benson Primary School's principal, and the Assistant Superintendent.

V. Media Center Committee Update

District #10's Media Center Directors meet together several times each year. During the November meeting, discussions included the Illinois Media Center standards, as well as meeting the needs of students qualifying for the Talented and Gifted (TAG) program.

District #10's Media Center Directors reviewed the Illinois standards for school library media centers. The standards provide applications for learning within the Media Centers.

Also at the meeting, each Director shared TAG educational opportunities taking place within their Media Center. Benson's Media Center Director identified a variety of Language Arts/Reading enrichment sessions being offered to TAG students. To communicate these activities to parents, the Director sends memos to parents of students participating in the sessions. Under the leadership of the Media Center Director, these special extension lessons occur at Benson for 30-minutes in length periodically throughout each week. At Franzen School, the Media Center Director provides reading instruction for small groups of students for one-hour in length. Extension packets are included for these enriched group sessions. In addition, 4th and 5th grade students are offered project-based activities for TAG extensions. Currently, 4th grade students are completing a project packet in the area science. Research, writing and reading activities are incorporated into the TAG extension packets. Peacock's Media Center Director is actively involved in assisting classroom teachers as they utilize the Media Center facility. Through the Director's guidance, students complete research on topics associated with their area of study. Technology provides the avenue to acquire information and complete writing activities. The Video Broadcast Studio is used by the Media Center Director to lead students in the development of "Video Book Talks". The Director has focused on encouraging the TAG students to videotape within the studio their review of books.