

CURRICULUM REPORT

I. District Advisory Committee (DAC)

Areas that the DAC team is focusing on at this time include the following: technology, district calendar and staff development.

In the continual review and implementation of the Technology Plan, the team of DAC members are analyzing the components of the plan that identify items to be purchased for the 2004-2005 school year. The final proposal will be completed during the winter months.

In January 2004, the DAC members will provide input on the proposed District #10 calendar for the 2004-2005 school year.

Staff development plans have been finalized for the remaining in-service days in the 2003-2004 school year. As in the most recent years, the workshops are designed with the specific needs of each grade level center. Components of the workshops are identified below.

II. Winter 2004 Workshop Days

On February 27th, March 1st and March 26th, Itasca School District's certified staff members will be participating in three teacher workshop days. These workshops will provide a variety of in-service opportunities involving useful reading strategies, implementation of effective teaching techniques and analysis of test scores. Although these topics will focus on meeting the academic needs of all students, an emphasis will be placed on the needs of the gifted learner and differentiated instruction.

Staff members at all three schools will be receiving training in the interpretation of test scores. A testing specialist will provide workshops at each individual school with a focus on analysis and application of test results.

At the primary and intermediate schools, additional workshops will be provided that emphasize meeting the needs of second language learners (ESL). Meeting the academic learning needs of ESL students within the classroom will be the central topic of the in-service.

The primary level staff members will receive a follow-up of their in-service associated with the implementation of "leveled books". Using the same presenter as in the fall of 2003, the workshop will advance their understanding in the effective use of guided reading with the implementation of the writing process.

Intermediate level teachers will focus on the implementation of the "School Improvement Process". With their school's designated goals and objectives, teams of teachers will be meeting to review research as well as their use of effective strategies throughout the school year. Team leaders will be directing the small group sessions.

At the middle school, two workshops will focus on middle school practices with a focus on reading instruction. The presenters are recognized for their high level of expertise in knowledge of effective middle school instructional strategies.