

CURRICULUM REPORT

I. Institute Day

On October 22nd, certified staff members in District #10 participated in district-wide workshops that were held at all three schools. The workshops focused on the following three areas:

1. Benson: Analysis of test scores and development of assessment products.
2. Franzen: Guided reading instruction with use of leveled books and training on software.
3. Peacock: Training in differentiating instruction to meet the needs of TAG students and training on language arts web site to extend TAG students academically.

The reviews of the workshops indicated that staff members found the sessions to be very helpful. Additional workshops are being planned in the areas of meeting the academic needs of TAG students, the writing process and analysis of assessment results.

II. American Education Week

During the week of November 15th-19th, District #10 will celebrate American Education Week. The events include inviting community members to visit our schools during the instructional day. Guests will have the opportunity to view the staff and students interacting within their regular schedule of instructional activities.

III. Writing Committee

The Writing Committee members continue to meet for the purpose of reviewing writing programs.

In contacting numerous school districts throughout the area, the committee members are identifying the variety of writing programs and materials used. To further provide an explanation of each program, presenters are visiting with the committee members.

IV. Talented and Gifted Program (TAG)

A newly updated TAG list of students has been completed for the 2004-2005 school year. All students not current in TAG have been reconsidered for entry into the TAG program through the yearly evaluation process. The process consists of assessments being administered to students during the spring of each school year, with students' grades and teacher evaluation forms being completed in the fall.

During the month of November, parents will be informed of the students recently placed in the Talented level of the TAG program.

Ten of the TAG students are being further assessed for possible entry into the Gifted level of the TAG program. District #10's school psychologist completes individual I.Q. tests on each qualifying student.

TAG Parent Night is scheduled for Thursday, November 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center at Peacock Middle School. All parents with students in the TAG program will be receiving an invitation to the meeting. The event will include an overview of the program by Dr. Tornatore, as well as presentations by the Media Center Directors. With each Media Center Director representing their school, examples of TAG activities will be shared.

V. District Advisory Committee (DAC)

DAC committee members have been updated regarding the process used to review available Student Management Systems. Each school had the opportunity to have several staff members present to observe presentations on systems being considered for purchase.

Over the next couple of months, discussions will continue within the DAC meetings regarding the items to be requested for purchase during the 2005-2006 school year. The emphasis of purchases will be directed towards the replacement/upgrade (life cycle) of existing technology hardware items.

At this time, the development of the 2005-2006 District #10 calendar will begin. Under the existing procedures, District #10's calendar is developed within the framework of Lake Park High School's calendar. When possible and as appropriately identified, the same days are chosen as "non attendance" days for students.

VI. Transitional Program of Instruction (TPI)

In Itasca School District, the program implemented to meet the instructional needs of students with English as a second language in their home is referred to as a Transitional Program of Instruction (TPI). Students are identified for assessment through a "Home Language Survey". A series of assessments are administered to these students for the purpose of identifying those who meet the designated criteria to be included in the program. Students identified to be served in the TPI program receive instructional assistance for 30-minutes daily.

Instruction is provided by certified teachers who are trained in meeting the educational needs of students who are limited in their use and application of the English language. At this time, District #10 employs

two teachers to service these students. Nancy Bernal instructs the identified TPI students at Benson Primary School. Pat Butler works with the TPI students at Franzen Intermediate School and Peacock Middle School. The distribution of schedules is based upon the number of students being served. Two grants from the Illinois State Board of Education provide financial assistance for this program.

VII. Textbook Loan Program

Illinois State Board of Education provides funds for books and materials on a revolving basis to grade levels throughout the state. For the current year, kindergarten through fourth grade levels will have the opportunity to purchase materials that will be paid through this program. The total funds available equal \$12,790.15.

Initial plans for spending the funds involved expenditures on materials for the writing program. If funds are not all expended in the area of writing, leveled books will be purchased to further enhance our reading materials within the schools.