

CURRICULUM REPORT

I. Student Test Data

Administrators and teachers have been given the 2003-2004 test results for the Stanford Achievement Test, OTIS-Lennon Abilities Test, Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) and Illinois Measure of Annual Growth in English (IMAGE) tests.

These tests were administered during the spring of 2004. At the elementary levels, the results will be shared with parents during the Parent/Teacher Conferences in November. Middle school students will receive their scores through the mail. Staff members are being in-serviced on the interpretation of the various types of test data. The data provides information that will assist in short and long term planning of instruction.

II. Talented and Gifted Program

During the fall of each year, additional students are considered for the Talented and Gifted Program. At the end of the first quarter, the entry process for the Talented level of TAG will be completed. By January, assessment for the Gifted level of TAG will be finalized.

Students newly enrolled in District #10 schools at grade levels 1-8 will also be considered for TAG. Their prior test scores are analyzed for possible qualification criteria. In addition, students (new to the district) at grade levels 3-8 are administered the OTIS-Lennon Abilities Test.

Two criteria for entry into the TAG program are completed during the fall. At this time, teachers are completing Teacher Recommendation Forms (TRF). In addition, first quarter grades are analyzed.

For students already placed within the Gifted level of TAG, meetings have taken place during September in which classroom teachers and administrators met with the parents. Goals and activities for the school year have been identified. In the spring, a summary meeting will take place.

III. Project Prevent Update

The Project Prevent Program is provided at Benson Primary School. Serving students identified as being at risk of failing to learn to read, it is an intervention program that provides one-to-one reading instruction.

Originally, the Project Prevent Program served only first grade students. Approximately 30 first grade students are served in the program each year. As shown during the 2003-2004, 93 percent of the students were reading on grade level at the end of their first grade year of school.

In a pilot last year, kindergarten students were provided with instructional time. With the one-hour of uninterrupted first grade reading time during the 2004-2005 school year, there is now an opportunity in which lower performing students can receive assistance. Working with the kindergarten teachers, students are identified, as well as taught beginning phonetic skills.

VI. Drug Education

Throughout the school year, Itasca School District participates in numerous drug awareness activities. Two outstanding organizations have offered professional assistance in providing resources and staff development to our schools.

The YWCA provides a program referred to as CAP's. Workshops are provided to teachers, parents and children at designated grade levels for all three schools. The curriculum includes a standardized program that is offered to school districts in the area.

Resources at Alexian Brothers Hospital offer an additional program at the middle school level. The program includes developing skills in raising self-esteem, communication skills, anger management, managing peer pressure and setting goals. Skills are taught to students, faculty and parents.

Both programs are provided through a Federal Grant (Drug Free Grant).

VII. NWACC Curriculum Committee

Monthly, Curriculum Directors representing Lake Park High School and their feeder districts meet to discuss curricular associated topics. The committee is referred to as NWACC (Northwest Area Curriculum Council). Under the direction of the superintendents from the associated school districts, the Curriculum Directors work collaboratively to discuss a variety of student-related topics.

VIII. Report Card Committee

Teachers are continuing to meet for the purpose of identifying key elements that they find essential to include within a report card. This will lay a foundation for the development of a new report card.

During the school year, new student databases will be considered for use within District #10. As staff members are provided with an opportunity to review the databases, the option of utilizing the coordinating report card will be discussed.

IX. Writing Committee

The Writing Committee has been formed. The committee consists of one teacher from each grade level, as well as a reading specialist from the elementary grade levels.

Committee members will be meeting weekly to analyze writing programs, as well as identify the instructional needs of District #10 students.