

CURRICULUM REPORT

I. Nationally Normed Achievement Testing

Students at grade levels 1-8 will be administered the Stanford Achievement Test and Otis Lennon Abilities Test (grade levels 2-8) during the dates of April 25th through May 13th. As with prior achievement tests, the Stanford will provide a variety of data on student achievement. The Otis Lennon provides a group I.Q. score.

- A. Stanford and Otis Lennon student scores will be sent in the mail to parents during the summer following the administration of the test in the form of a Parent Report.
- B. Stanford scores will be given to classroom teachers for the purpose of analyzing a student's academic strengths and weaknesses.
- C. Stanford scores will be used to provide an overall summary of progress of the students and by grade level.
- D. Stanford and Otis Lennon scores will be used as criteria for the Talented and Gifted Program.

II. Tour of Itasca

Village President, Mrs. Gigi Gruber, is offering a tour of the Village Facilities for all 5th grade students in Itasca. The tour will take place on Friday, May 13, 2005. Students will receive presentations at the following facilities:

- A. Village Hall and Community Development (Building Department)
- B. Police Station
- C. Public Utilities (Treatment Plant)
- D. Public Works
- E. Fire Department
- F. Itasca School District: Administrative Center

III. Media Center Committee Update

The Media Center Directors are meeting to review research associated with effective school library programs and its relationship with student reading achievement. Meeting throughout the remaining portion of this school year, the analysis will provide an excellent foundation in which to build upon for next year.

IV. State Assessment for ISAT and IMAGE tests

State assessment for Franzen Intermediate School and Peacock Middle School with the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) and Illinois Measure of Annual Growth in English (IMAGE) has been completed and returned for the results to be tabulated. In addition, Benson Primary School has been administering the TerraNova Test (also referred to as the “Illinois Grade 2 Assessment of Reading and Mathematics”) during the dates of April 4th – 8th to their second grade students.

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is planning to provide us with the results by the end of June.

V. School District Calendar: “Modification of School Code Mandates” (Waivers)

In the development of the school district calendar for 2005-2006, Itasca School District will be requesting waivers related to “modification of School Code”. Currently, Itasca School District has two of these waivers approved for the existing district calendar. In addition to the existing waivers, we will be requesting an additional waiver. To synchronize the waivers to be associated with the same years, all three waivers will be submitted for approval this spring. The waivers would be approved for a 5-year period of time. Descriptions of the waivers are listed below.

- A. Lincoln’s Birthday: The waiver involves a request for students and staff to attend school on Lincoln’s Birthday and take a “no attendance” day on Presidents’ Day. When Lincoln’s Birthday occurs on a weekend, the waiver does not apply. During the 2005-2006 school year, the waiver for Lincoln’s Birthday will not apply.
- B. Casimir Pulaski Day: The waiver allows us to provide a staff development day for teachers on Casimir Pulaski Day with the students not in attendance.
- C. Veteran’s Day: The waiver will allow us to attend school on Veteran’s Day.

The process in approving waivers, which qualify for a “modification of school code”, involve detailed steps that include the following:

- Inform state level legislators and District #10 Union Representative in writing of the waiver requests.
- School Board members to approve of the waivers at a “Public Hearing” on a day other than the day of a regular board meeting. A quorum of members is required to be present.
- Advertise in the newspaper 7-days prior to the “Public Hearing”.
- Attain approval from DuPage Regional Office of Education.
- Submit the above documentation to ISBE within 15-days after the “Public Hearing”.

Therefore, a “Public Hearing” has been set for Monday, April 25th at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of considering and approving the waiver applications. The meeting will be held at the Itasca School District’s Administrative Center.