

CURRICULUM REPORT

I. Talented and Gifted Program (TAG)

- A. Assessment for the Gifted level of TAG program has been completed. For this school year, two additional students qualify for the highest level of TAG (Gifted).

Based on scores from the Otis-Lennon Test (administered with the Stanford Achievement Test each spring), a total of ten students were identified to receive additional testing. The ten students were administered an individual I.Q. test by our district's school psychologist.

In addition to a letter from District Office regarding the outcome of the assessment, communication with the parents includes a final report from the school psychologist. Also, the parents received a personal phone call in which the process and the results were further explained.

- B. At Peacock Middle School, the use of TCR Connections instructional web site continues to be monitored. This web site serves as a resource for the language arts teachers to utilize with their TAG students. The Media Center Director (Sandy Bernahl) has been very effective in the application of this program.

II. Writing Committee

Throughout the 2004-2005 school year, the Writing Committee members have been meeting. Below is a list of their current recommendations for the 2005-2006 school year.

- A. The Writing Committee will continue to meet during the 2005-2006 school year to further develop training, curriculum, and a philosophy.
- B. A writing process referred to as "6+1 Traits" is being recommended for adoption within Itasca School District at all grade levels.
1. The writing process includes 6 elements (traits) plus one overall view of the writing piece. The traits include the following:
 - ❖ Ideas-content of the piece
 - ❖ Organization-internal structure of the piece
 - ❖ Voice-style/tone/flavor/connection with reader
 - ❖ Word Choice-vocabulary and skill to use words well
 - ❖ Sentence Fluency-well built sentences (word order/logic)
 - ❖ Conventions-edit and prepare text for reader
 - ❖ Presentation-appearance of the piece
 2. This writing process is not necessarily involving an additional book but rather a process to teach effective writing skills with revision and editing strategies.

- C. All administrators and teachers would be provided with the book entitled, 6+1 Traits of Writing by Ruth Culham. The book clearly explains the 6+1 Traits to be utilized within the writing process. Furthermore, the book provides examples on how to implement the process within the classroom. During the October workshop scheduled for next year, the teachers will be involved in book talks for the purpose of discussing the contents of the book.
- D. The three remaining workshop days for the 2005-2006 school year will be utilized partially for the training of the new writing program. In addition to consultants being employed to train our staff, we will also use the “trainer of trainers” model. By training one of our teachers in the writing process at the trainer level, we will have more opportunities throughout each school year to train additional staff members.

III. District Advisory Committee (DAC)

A. Technology

Technology continues to be a discussion at all of the DAC meetings.

Technology purchase requests for the 2004-2005 school year were discussed (see attachment). While many of the items on the list have been received, the remaining items will be purchased prior to the end of this school year.

Intended technology purchases for next year will be included within the 2005-2006 Tentative Budget.

B. Calendar

The recommended calendar for the 2005-2006 school year will be presented at the March School Board meeting. As in prior years, Itasca School District will be closely aligned to the Lake Park High School calendar, where applicable.

In preparation for presenting the recommended calendar in March, we would like to share one of the discussions that occurred within the DAC meetings. There is one change identified during the month of November 2005. We would attend school on Veterans’ Day and, with the assistance of the local VFW, honor veterans during the school day. We would then take the day before Thanksgiving as a “no school” day for staff and students.