



Math Curriculum Review Team
 Graduation Requirements Committee
 Human Resources
 08-09 Budget Committee
 Reading Curriculum Review Team

Powerful Teaching and Learning
 T³ Teachers Teaching w/ Technology
 High Schools That Work
 Math and Science Leadership Team
 Special Education



Your source for keeping up with the changing world within the Oak Harbor School District

The TLA

Three Letter Acronym

Test your acumen for acronyms. When it comes to alphabet soup, no one can outdo the education world. (Okay, maybe the military.) How many of these acronyms do you know? Hint: Many of them are mentioned in this newsletter.

CRT	MSLT	LID
TLI	GLE	MMGW
BEA	OSPI	HR
PTL	TAG	EALR
T ³	TI	IMC
HSTW	RTI	NCLB
CRNA	SPDT	GLE

Welcome to the first issue of the ASC Newsletter, *The Loop!* We care a lot about good communication and recognize that when things are moving quickly it can be tough to keep everyone in *The Loop*. Now, you can be in the loop about what's happening across our district.

We also want you to know who to talk to if you have input or feedback about any of the initiatives currently underway. Your thoughts and ideas are important to us and we are grateful for anything you are willing to share.

Our students are fortunate to be served by so many skilled educators here in Oak Harbor. The projects and committees highlighted here would not be possible without the incredible talent and expertise we have in our district. While we recognize there is a lot of work that needs to be done, we can also be proud of the many efforts underway helping our students succeed.

So, pour yourself another cup of joe, snuggle up to your computer screen, and enjoy the first issue of *The Loop*.

Dr. Lance Gibbon, Assistant Superintendent

New calculators allow students and teacher to be on the same digital page



During training last week, math & science teachers

learned how to use the new "TI-84" graphing calculators, won recently by OHHS in a national contest. The high school received 30 of the calculators, along with the TI-Navigator Classroom System, which allows communication between the student calculators and the teacher's personal computer. The school also gets 36 hours of specialized training from Sylvan Learning Systems. OHHS math teacher Nicola Wethall entered the national contest and the school was chosen through a random drawing.



Curriculum Review & Needs Assessment Committee (CRNA)

This committee wants to know what works for you, what do you need?

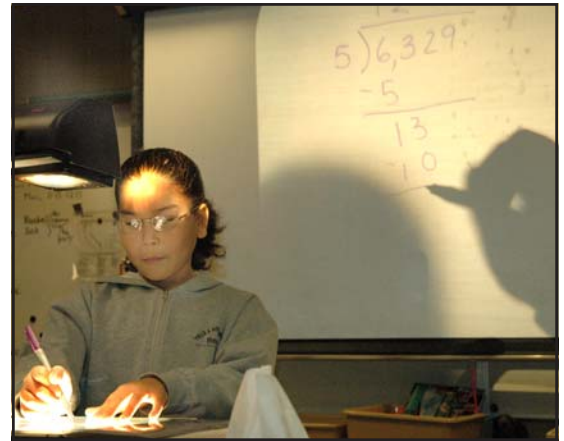
What materials are we supposed to be using? How do we fit it all in? What are other teachers using to fill in the gaps? How are we assessing what the students are learning? We need help!

We have heard these and many other comments and questions from teachers across our district and are putting together a committee (CRNA) to 1) find out what teachers need and 2) provide answers, direction, and support. This will be a multi-year process and the work is just getting under way.

This committee, co-chaired by Peter Szalai and Lance Gibbon, will serve an important role in helping shape the overall direction for curriculum and assessment in our district. Committee findings will be used to help guide and prioritize future materials

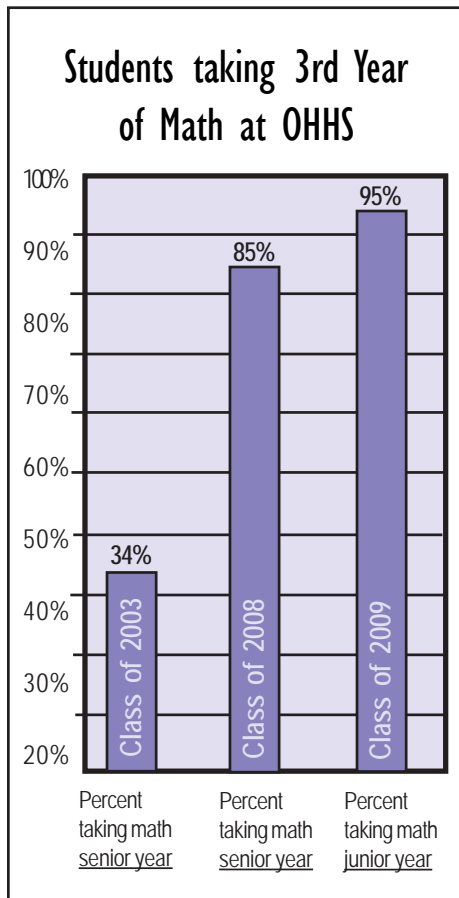
adoptions and alignment efforts and to generate specific recommendations, as well as revisions, to the curriculum replacement cycle timelines and processes.

The committee recommendations may also have implications for professional development, common assessments, and scope & sequences. CRNA also wants to find out what is and is not working and share that information across the district. You can expect a teacher survey this spring, followed up with some personal interviews, as we start gathering data. We don't all need to be out there reinventing the wheel, yet we know



What are the tools that work for you? What tools are missing?

we can be more efficient and effective in our work with kids.



This chart illustrates the impact of WASL on the number of kids taking 3 years of math at OHHS.

New Graduation Requirements?

How do we better prepare kids for life after school

As we begin work on the remodeling the high school, a team of teachers, administrators, and parents are considering a minor remodel to our high school graduation requirements. The High School Graduation Requirements Committee has been evaluating several changes:

- 1. Adding a required 3rd credit of math:** This change is required by State Law. Required electives would be reduced to accommodate this requirement. Fortunately, 95% of our students are already taking three credits of math, so the impact of this change has already occurred.
- 2. Adding a required .5 credit of English for a total of 4 credits:** This is a requirement of most 4-year colleges and is recommended as a requirement for student in the College Prep Program of Study (see below).

3. Providing a better structure for our students' high school experience through "Concentrations" and "Programs of Study": Many of our students take a smorgasbord approach to their high school experience and find themselves lacking the classes needed to achieve their post high school goals. We need to inform our students earlier about their options and give

them better guidelines to help them chart a course through high school. More information about this proposal is available at: www.ohsd.net.

4. Revise Related Board Policies to Remove "Barriers to Graduation": Policy revisions are being considered regarding class standing (Washington grad year versus credit status), attendance and earning credit (in course syllabi, linking attendance and participation to grades), retaking classes for credit (the option for students who earn a "D" to retake a class for credit with teacher recommendation), and cleaning up of language surrounding current credit requirements.

The Graduation Requirements Committee wants to know what you think about these proposals. Please check out more detailed information online at http://www.ohsd.net/uploads/u_0_891.pdf and send us your feedback at feedback@ohsd.net. You can also contact any one of the Committee members: Lance Gibbon; Leandra Reuble; Laura Fortin; Mark Winford; Brian Farmer; Cynthia Story; Dwight Lundstrom; Nicole MacTavish; Gail Cleveland; Tonia de Beaux; Lisa Kinker; Sandee Oehring; Cathleen Bos; Steve Hall; Gail Cleveland.

Powerful Teaching and Learning (PTL)

Defining good teaching through PTL

What makes good teaching? What does it look like? These are hard questions to answer in isolation, but as teachers observe, reflect, and coach one another the answers become clearer.

Enter Powerful Teaching and Learning. The PTL initiative, begun in the fall of 2006, continues to focus on training teachers in preparation to visit OHSD classrooms with a coach in order to improve their own instructional practice. Teachers will observe student learning outside of their own school and level, providing an enriching experience.

After visiting classrooms for three 20-minute observations, teachers are asked to reflect on their own instruction and identify an area on which they will focus over the next two months.

Teachers who have been through the process have chosen to work on intentional teaching, providing opportunities for students to make connections and the production of a real world product that demonstrates their learning.

You are invited to join in this high level professional development opportunity. Upcoming PTL training events can be viewed in our monthly course catalogue.

PTL Coaches

Jeff Riffel
Sandee Oehring
Laura Aesoph
Joyce Swanson
Ray Cone
Bre Urness-Straight
Kurt Schonberg
Mellody Matthes

Coaches In-Training

Nicola Wethall
Duane Sisto
Denise Snow
Judy Shellenbarger
Jeanette Gewald
Martha Adams

PTL Stats to Date:

- Phase 1 Training: Completed by 202 out of 330 teachers
- Phase 2 Training: Completed by 124 out of 330 teachers
- Protocol Visits: 30 out of 330 teachers (in-district ½ days will continue)
- Goal: 100 protocol visits by June 19, 2008
- Phases 1 and 2 will be offered once more in April for SPDT 4 teachers and 2 administrators to be trained as coaches this spring



PTL coaches worked with teachers last week to discuss how PTL strategies can be adapted to the classrooms. Kurt Schonberg, director of Teaching and Learning, made the presentation.

Math Curriculum Review Team (CRT)

Secondary teachers taking on ‘math wars’

Have you heard about the “math wars”? OHSD secondary teachers are wrestling with many of the same questions as they look at new math materials for algebra, algebra II and geometry.

The Math curriculum review team has considered 12 curricula after writing educational specifications in this subject area. This process involves writing sections on history, philosophy and current practice as well as reading and summarizing research about effective math material and classroom practice.

This week the team was able to pare the twelve programs down to three. These include SIMMS Integrated, Core Plus, and College Prep Math. These materials are already in buildings and are available for teachers to field test lessons and units to get a feel for how the material works with students in OHSD.

We will reconvene with teachers who will be affected by this adoption in late February. If you have questions, comments or concerns about this work please contact your math CRT representative.

Reading Curriculum Review Team (CRT)

Whole language, phonics, or both

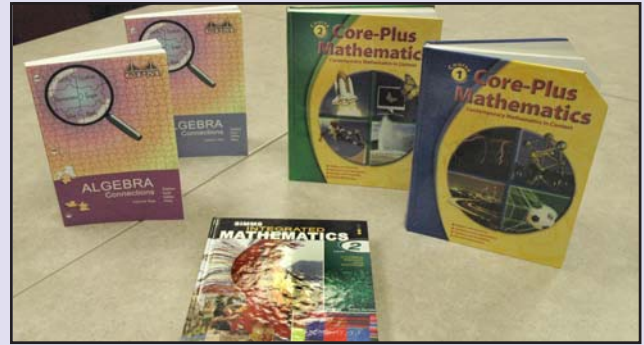
We know from research that early literacy experiences are critical and that’s why the work of the Reading CRT is so important. The team is facilitating a K-5 adoption process and tasked with finding materials that are RTI (response to intervention) ready and will support the goal of getting at least 90% of students reading at grade level by the 3rd grade.



This week we completed the research phase of the K-5 reading adoption and moved on to evaluating programs. We reviewed letters from staff in support of Read Well. After screening materials the team decided to continue reviewing the following programs: Read Well K-1 and Plus (2007); Houghton Mifflin HM Reading (2007); Pearson Scott Foresman Reading Street (2008); Harcourt Storytown (formerly Trophies) (2008).

This month staff members at the elementary schools can expect samples of these programs to rotate through staff lounges, along with a survey to help us gather feedback from teachers and instructional assistants.

We are committed to an adoption that will ensure that ample targeted instructional materials are provided for struggling readers. The team also wants to make sure the adoption provides assessment tools that will help us be strategic about how to best support student reading progress. Thanks to teachers throughout the district for sharing concerns with the building representatives on this team. We want to continue to hear your feedback!



Math CRT Members

Chair	Laura Fortin (OHHS)
Math Coaches	Dick Sander Brandy Ross
NWMS	Pete Plumly, 8 th Donna McLeod, 6 th
OHMS	Sally Creilly, SPED Matt Wilcox, 8 th Erik Stine, 8 th
OHHS	Shane Evans, principal Andy Wesley, 9 th Nicola Wethall, 9 th Heidi Richard, SPED Dwight Lundstrom, principal
OHSD Community	Kurt Schonberg, director Kathy Jones Tonia DeBeaux Jim Salmons

Reading CRT Members

Chair	Kurt Schonberg
BVE	Kris Bishop
CHE Librarian	Shay Eisenbarth
HCE	Charlene Amoguis Kathy Ridle
OHE	Susan Kovar
OVE	Jennifer Loomis
NWMS	Judy Martinsen
OHMS	Denise Snounity
OHHS	Allison Sinibaldi (inactive) Molly Butler (inactive)
BVE Librarian	Shelley Collins
Admin (OHE)	Dorothy Day
Community	Rebecca Meadows
Title I	Paula Seaman
SpEd	Gail Cleveland, director

Note: You may contact any CRT member or Kurt Schonberg, director of Teaching and Learning ,if you have questions or concerns regarding either of the CRT teams’ work or PTL. Kurt is available at kschonberg@ohsd.net or call (360) 279-5011

Teachers Teaching with Technology (T³)

Supporting student learning through technology

Teachers across OHSD are discovering new, powerful, and exciting ways to support student learning through technology. Plus, they are picking up some nice incentives along the way.

The T³ program is the first program of its kind in OHSD and was developed by teachers and administrators on the Technology Advisory Group (TAG). T³ kicked-off with its first training during the February 4th LID. Initial teacher responses have been overwhelmingly positive.

T³ focuses on supporting student learning through the effective use and integration of technology. For Tier 1, participating teachers complete a standards-based, online training as well as instructor-led training. Upon successful completion, teachers receive a \$100 incentive! So far 19 teachers have completed Tier 1 and there has

been a total of 26 hours logged on the online training site: "How to Master." Additional incentives for completion of Tier 2 include added technology for the teacher's classroom.

Fifty teachers were selected for participation in the first round of this program. Participants were selected by the Technology Advisory Group based on level of readiness, student-focused motivation and a demonstration of an understanding of the broader vision of technology integration into instructional practices. As a follow-up to the LID, T³ teachers will be offered three-hour SPDT classes at the building level.

The next phase of the T³ Program will begin Fall of 2008. We look forward to learning together and sharing the successes of this exciting new program in OHSD!



Teachers developed their computer skills as part of the T³ training in this new computer room set up at Hillcrest Elementary.

Match the Person with the Trivial Factoid

Answers can be found on Page 6

Bre Urness-Straight, *Professional Development*
 Kurt Schonberg, *Teaching & Learning*
 Carolyn Shimek, *Accounts Payable*
 Krista Lien, *Payroll*
 Gary Goltz, *Construction*
 Shauna Gumbel, *Human Resources*
 Alexis Wallace, *Reception*
 Rita Armstrong, *Special Education*
 Joe Hunt, *Communications*

- Served as a yeoman in the Navy for 4 years on an admiral's staff
- Hitchhiked to the "Summer of Love" in San Francisco in 1967
- Grandparents on both sides were Portuguese immigrants through Ellis Island
- Takes care of a wild cat that has had 19 kittens
- Delivered beer to oil drilling rigs
- Lived on a boat for 12 years and is an advanced certified diver
- Was a commercial fisherman for 18 years
- First job out of high school: folk musician playing coffee houses and festivals
- Graduated from Shoreline High School (which no longer exists)

Math & Science Leadership Team (MSLT)

Setting direction for professional development funds

A new team of teachers has been brought together to provide leadership and direction for math and science professional development (grades 4-12) in our district.

A two-year state grant funds this effort and provides for two teacher-leaders from each middle school and high school. This talented group of educators includes our math coaches, and one math and science teacher from each middle school and the high school.

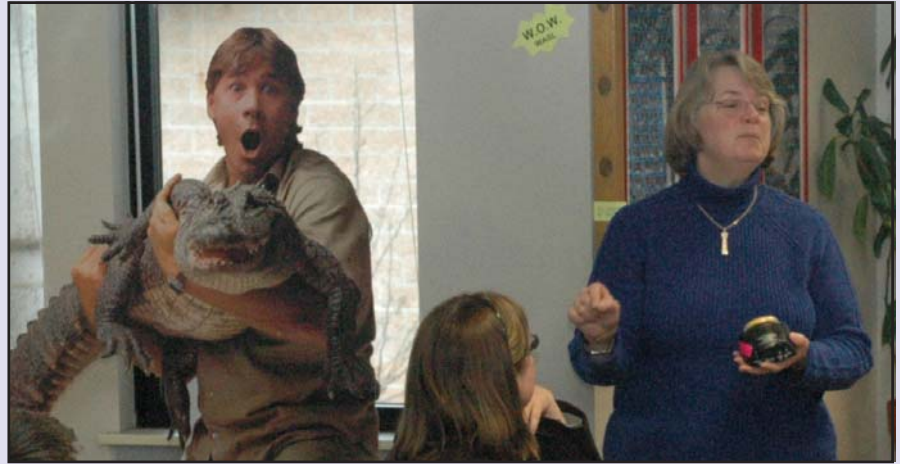
The MSLT has already planned some training activities, peer coaching opportunities, follow-ups to the LID training, and workshops for this year and next. The team is working on a balance of optional professional development opportunities for interested teachers as well as critical training needed for everyone. They will continue gathering input from teachers to refine these offerings as they develop a two-year plan.

All of our schools and levels have much to learn from one another. Sharing and partnering across our district are key themes to this work. Stay tuned for more updates soon!

Feel free to contact MSLT members with

your comments and ideas: Nicola Wethall; Charles Moser; Dick Sander; Brandy Ross; Bre Urness-Straight; Tonya Stout; Jason

Schmid; Philip Southwick; John Delprete. Lance Gibbon and Kurt Schonberg help support and facilitate this team.



Learning Improvement Day

Sharing the stage with crocs, Janis Pock showed Special Ed Teachers alternative communications and assistive technologies during an LID afternoon session. Twenty three different sessions were offered during Monday's Learning Improvement Day. The day focused on FOSS science at the elementary level, the district's Powerful Teaching & Learning and building-specific needs such as lesson planning using Understanding by Design. A number of sessions were also generated and offered by specialists.

HR Corner

Reminders and updates from Human Resources

Substitutes: Spring is coming and that means that we are always short on subs. We actually have been short on classified substitutes all year but spring is even worse. As you plan to take your annual/personal leave, please keep that in mind.

We are in the process of interviewing more people to add to the classified sub list but our application pool is very small. We have put several ads in the newspaper this year and continue to look for good applicants to interview for the classified sub list.

Certificated Transfer Process: HR has completed the transfer process for known open teaching positions for the 2008-2009 school year; there were very few known openings. Check the Oak Harbor School District website for future openings.

Evaluations: Administrators are reminded that evaluations for employees who are resigning or retiring during the school year must be submitted to HR before the employee's last day of work. The deadline for the second observation of provisional certificated staff is February 5.

Blood Borne Pathogen Training: We appreciate the patience of all affected staff members in dealing with the BBP website this past fall. Due to a glitch in the report function, we were not able to track all who had taken the training; which resulted in multiple reminders to those who had already taken the test. We do want to take this opportunity to remind folks that this is an annual requirement mandated by district policy and regularly updated by our nursing

staff. Again, we thank you for your cooperation.

Certificated Staff Credits/Clock Hours: Just a reminder as you submit credits and clock hours for salary placement to make sure you submit a completed "leap" form that has been signed by your supervisor; also make sure to attach official documentation of the earned credits/clock hours.

Match the Person & Factoid

Shauna-I, Alexis-C, Rita-A, Joe-H
Bre-F, Kurt-G, Carolyn-D, Krista-E, Gary-B