

August 2017

Hello K-6th Grade USD 383 Families!!

With a new back-to-school season fast approaching, I'm so excited to welcome more than 3,500 kindergarten to sixth grade students in busting-at-the-seams buildings from a refreshing summer and set for an epic academic year.

As we kickoff the 2017-18 school year with our MTSS system-wide framework, I wanted to share several updates on new curriculum resources your student may be using this coming year to best support academic engagement and personalized learning.

With the advice of building leadership teams and a full year of a review process and research, we are thrilled to share several new pieces of intervention-specific curriculum for small groups of students including **Number Worlds, 95% Group Materials, Read Naturally and Second Step**.

First, we have a new comprehensive system called **Number Worlds** to support students who may have gaps in math. It's a highly-engaging, research-proven, teacher-led math intervention program to bring students up to grade level with real-world applications. Number Worlds helps learners in tiers two and three achieve math success by intensively targeting the most important skills.

For reading, we will offer several district-wide tools from **95% Group Materials and Read Naturally**. With a full array of resources from chip kits to Phonics Lesson Library, **95%** provides sequential intervention instruction, using the 'I Do, We Do, You Do' modeling cycle, in phonological awareness, phonics, vocabulary and comprehension concepts. **Read Naturally** fluency interventions help developing readers improve their literacy skills and become independent readers.

Finally, as we all recognize the vital importance of social and emotional learning, classroom teachers will have **Second Step**. Second Step decreases problem behaviors and increases whole-school success by promoting self-regulation, safety and support. For three weeks of class meetings a month (still save one meeting for Olweus Bullying Prevention Program topics), we'll focus on skills for learning, empathy, emotional management and problem solving.

Among the other updates coming for the year, we'll focus on Formative Assessment System for Teachers (**FAST**) as a universal screener and progress monitoring tool for reading, math and behaviors.

Moby Max, will replace Compass Odyssey, as a blended learning tool for both core instruction and intervention support.

The former Math Enrichment program is now called **STEM** using a globally-recognized curriculum known as **Project Lead the Way** for all students to encounter pathways in computer science, coding and STEM topics to engage students in hands-on activities, projects and problems; as well as empower students to solve real-world challenges.

Vocal music teachers will start **Game Plan** curriculum for K-5, organized with lessons embracing several music philosophies, including the Orff Schulwerk and Kodály approach to reading rhythm and melody.

Depending on funding from outside grants, the PE team is exploring a new **bike unit** on awareness, safety and transportation access unit for intermediate students.

While K-5 students continue year two of **Full Option Science Systems (FOSS)** with an assessment and digital focus on FOSSmap, Grade 6 science curriculum will now be **Science Dimensions**, built with a digital-first mentality. This resource provides an authentic approach to increasing student achievement in science and engineering. Grade 6 will cover all middle school KCCRS Standards in Earth & Space Science with three modules - Earth's Water & Atmosphere; Geological Processes Through Time; & Space Science.

Several sites and classrooms are **piloting ELA curriculum** that will be adopted this time next year! Look for more to review and evaluate this fall from **Wonders, Ready Gen and Journeys**.

In all of these changes, we have student-centered **core values** and a clear set of **goals**:

- **76%** of our K-6 students to be on **benchmark in reading and math** this year on FAST;
- Longer-term goals of **55%** USD 383 students will score in **Levels 3 and 4** (College and Career Ready) on **ELA State Assessments** by **2021**.
- **60%** USD 383 students will score in **Levels 3 and 4** on **Math State Assessments** by 2021.
- Under the 5R model, we also focus on **Relevance**: By 2021, USD 383 educators will increase **personalized learning** designed to prepare our students for college and career readiness with **Individual Plans of Study (IPS)**.
- **Responsive Culture**: By 2021, USD 383 educators will increase **academic engagement** through differentiated learning strategies with **MTSS**, specifically **Social and Emotional Factors Measured Locally and Graduation Rates**.

Keep on! – **Lucas Shivers**, Director of Elementary Education