

HASTINGS HIGHLIGHTS

*The monthly newsletter of highlights in
Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment*



In this Issue:

**K-12 MATHEMATICS
COMMITTEE**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
CONFERENCE DAY**

**TRI-STATE VISIT TO
HASTINGS**

**OUR TALL 7 SPOTLIGHT: #7
JOY — FOSTER AND EMBRACE JOY, FOR OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF.
DR. MCKERSIE**

K-12 MATHEMATICS COMMITTEE

Our recent K-12 Mathematics Committee session began with final feedback from participants on an instructional rubric for educators that the group has been working to complete. The Hastings rubric has been adapted from the youCubed Mindset Guide and aligns with the vision work around the nature of mathematics and approaches to promote mathematics learning the committee did last year. Additionally, consideration of the new New York State Computer Science and Digital Fluency Standards was used in the creation process. The committee subdivided into two building-based groups and began to pilot two sections of the rubric, Nature of Mathematics and Challenge and Struggle, to consider alignment with a current Operations and Algebraic Thinking unit of study they teach. Questions used to guide this analysis process are below:

- Where do we focus on these elements of the rubric in our planning, instruction and assessment?
- How do we bring them to life, specifically?
- In what ways are we able to gauge student success in these areas?
- What do we still need to know from our learners?

SUPERINTENDENT'S CONFERENCE DAY

On March 16th, for Superintendent's Conference Day, members of the faculty engaged in a series of learning workshops designed by the Hastings Professional Learning Committee. The purpose of the day was twofold; (1) to explore barriers and enabling forces for ensuring a welcoming and affirming environment for all through a series of learning opportunities with experts in the field, and (2) to plan for the shift from theoretical understanding to practical application with job-alike colleagues. [Dr. Shawn Joseph](#) kicked off the day with a call to action around culturally responsive practice in a session titled *Persisting Through Difficult Times: The Leadership Lessons of Joseph*. This keynote address was followed with a choice of workshop. One was *The Social Neuroscience of Race and Ethnicity*, facilitated by [Dr. Dan McCloskey](#). The other was “*You Can’t Be What You Can’t See*”: *How Media Shapes Our Understanding of Gender and What We Need to Envision a More Inclusive World*, facilitated by [Dr. Sharon Maxwell & Chelsea Maxwell](#). We are grateful to Dr. Jenice Mateo-Toledo, Hastings Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator, and Kristen Kumar, Hastings Inclusion Facilitator, who collaboratively designed and facilitated a learning session on *Culturally Responsive Pedagogies, Inclusive Mindset, & Universal Design for Learning*. Time for reflection and collaborative instructional planning was incorporated into the day.

MARCH 2022

TRI-STATE VISIT TO HASTINGS

From March 9th through March 11th, regional colleagues serving in a variety of different professional roles joined us for a Tri-State visit. Our visit topic was *Systemic Collaboration to Ensure a Professional Community for Student Success*. A review of documentary evidence, coupled with information learned from approximately 150 participants across stakeholder groups, enabled the Tri-State visiting team to investigate the three essential questions that were designed by our Chair Council:

1. To what extent, and in what areas, does the district have clear and well understood protocols for systemic communication in service to a professional community for teachers and staff?
2. To what extent are stakeholder roles and responsibilities understood and adhered to in service to a professional community for teachers and staff, a shared vision and environment for change, and parent and community support?
3. How might we strengthen protocols, structures and norms to enhance intra-district collaboration in service to a professional community for teachers and staff?

Within the next few weeks, Tri-State will be generating a report that outlines our areas of strength as well as recommended next steps for us to engage in as a district. Preliminarily, we learned that Hastings is currently well-primed for continuous improvement in the area of collaboration. Many strides have already been made, especially in the area of communication. Concurrently, we learned that we also have key opportunities as a district to move the needle forward on collaboration. By engaging in future work together to solidify our vision for student learning and strengthen our instructional core, collaboration will be bolstered. We look forward to receiving the report from Tri-State, which will offer specific suggestions to us. This document will be shared with the broader community.

We are very grateful to the many and varied stakeholders who helped make our Tri-State preparation and visit a success. Thank you.