

HASTINGS HIGHLIGHTS

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



In this Issue:

**MIDDLE SCHOOL
MATHEMATICS**

**SPECIAL EDUCATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**HEALTH CURRICULUM
REVIEW**



MIDDLE SCHOOL MATHEMATICS

Mathematics teachers in Grades 6-8 recently came together to debrief our 2020-2021 *Big Ideas* implementation efforts. The department explored and reported out on classroom implementation and parent communication agreements. State and local mathematics assessment data were investigated, and discussion ensued about homework. After sharing implementation areas of strength and areas for growth, the team set group goals for assessment and differentiation. Each teacher also set an individual professional goal.

Grade 5 teachers also met this summer to engage in an inquiry into mathematics. Part of this process was to investigate the *Big Ideas* resources. We decided to pilot *Big Ideas* for the upcoming school year.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The special education advisory committee has been hard at work using the principles and practices of improvement science to enhance outcomes for students with individualized education plans (IEPs) districtwide. This committee, a group representing various stakeholder roles and school buildings, has identified a key problem of practice to explore and a related theory of action.

After much healthy deliberation, the group coalesced around the problem of academic performance disparities for students with IEPs and created the following theory of action:

If we focus on improving the academic performance of students with disabilities, then students will feel supported, comfortable, and confident to pursue whatever path is best suited for their individual success.

To gain a deeper understanding of the problem, the committee analyzed quantitative and qualitative data, including a review of reports related to special education. Members also discussed the history and culture of the district related to special education. Inquiry into leadership, teaching and learning practices related to curriculum, instruction, assessment, professional learning and the learning environment provided additional context.

The committee is continuing to explore this problem of practice, using root cause analysis and peer reviewed research to guide next steps.

SEPTEMBER 2022

HEALTH CURRICULUM REVIEW

Members of the health and physical education department recently engaged in a curriculum inquiry and design process. Given the spring Panorama social emotional learning survey data and the need for content for 6th grade health, we prioritized the health curriculum. Curriculum work occurred over a period of three days and included a review of data, curriculum and standards, research across districts, and identification of measures for success. The group created a scope and sequence for middle and high school health, determined key topics for each grade level, and articulated student learning outcomes for each topic. In addition, a series of performance assessments were created. Collaborative design and peer feedback were integral to the process. The group is looking forward to beginning a similar process with the physical education curriculum shortly.

NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

A hearty congratulations to Hillside Elementary School for being named a 2022 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence!