Tech & PD Update

March 27, 2015

Lion's Quest: May 19

Lion's Quest is a comprehensive social-emotional resource & curriculum to help students learn skill to resist peer pressure, bullying, etc. Training in how to implement & use these resources will be held all day May 19 in the Board Room. Please contact your building principal if you would like to attend.

- [Lion's Quest Web Site](#)
- [Program Overview](#)
- Grades K-5
  - [Brochure](#)
  - [Resources](#)
- Grades 6-8
  - [Brochure](#)
  - [Resources](#)
- Grades 9-12
  - [Brochure](#)
  - [Resources](#)

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Curriculum Alignment Teams Meet: 4/15 & 5/27

Our ongoing Curriculum Alignment Teams will meet one more time before school ends. Our goal will be to finalize our first draft of assessment questions that align with our existing curriculum maps. Now that our calendar has been approved we can move forward with these. Meetings are held in the Board Room at Lincoln Education Center from 8AM-3PM on the following dates.

- **ELA Team: April 15**
- **Math Team: May 27**

Please complete a Professional Leave form and submit to your building principal ASAP.

What About Science? We haven't forgotten about Science, nor are we trying to ignore other disciplines. Our hands are tied by the lack of available substitute teachers. We will try to reconvene the Science team at a later date, likely in the fall. As other subject areas adopt new standards, the Curriculum Department will try to address these needs, too. We just can't do it all at once.

PLEASE NOTE: Absolutely no decisions have been finalized regarding District-wide adoption of any assessment at this time.

PARCC Update

Grades 3-8 are wrapping up our first official PARCC Performance-based Assessment (PBA). High School students enrolled in Algebra 2 and/or English 11 will complete the PBA test in April. All of these students will also complete the End of Year (EOY) test during the month of May. Results from all of these tests will be aggregated into a score report after completion. We have not yet received an estimate of when these results will be available, nor do we know what the report will look like..

At this time we are aware of comparatively few problems with our online test delivery. We have had a large number of last minute details to sort out, and we have dealt with a few testing irregularities. We anticipate these will have very little impact on individual students' test scores, or overall school scores. Our network capacity and accessibility of test materials via Chromebooks has been nothing short of stellar compared with our experiences during last year's field test. We anticipate the EOY testing to go even more smoothly as we gain experience.

Thanks to all who have helped with test administration at buildings and in classrooms!

Hapara Changes (Grades 6-12)

Hapara Teacher Dashboard will begin to look quite different in a few days. Hapara is overhauling their interface and adding some new features. Beginning April 1, the "old" Hapara will be gone for good and the new look will appear by default. We cannot change or control this. If you would like to make the leap now, just visit www.teacherdashboard.com.
- To learn more about the new look & features please read this document.
- If you'd prefer, try this interactive tutorial.

NOTE: Recently your feedback was requested regarding the use of Hapara. We are evaluating the value of this service to classroom teachers to see if this is an area in which we should reduce expenditures. We are not able to say if Hapara will continue, expand, etc., at this time. It is simply too early to tell, and no decisions have been made yet. If you have not yet responded to the initial email request, please share your opinions in an email to Matt Jacobson.

Cyber Camp 2015

Carl Sandburg College will be hosting Cyber Camp again this year! This is a fantastic (and inexpensive) opportunity to learn about some nifty tools & tips to tech-up your classroom activities a bit!

This year's keynote speaker is Kathy Schrock, a globally-recognized leader in educational technology. Classroom teacher, instructional technologist, and technology director, she continues to blog and promote innovative technology use in education. Read Kathy Schrock's Guide to Everything, Kathy Schrock's Kaffeklatch, and Kathy's Katch on the Discovery Education Network.

Additionally, several of our District #205 colleagues will be presenting! D205 presenters include Jon Bradburn from Gale, Miranda Hedden & TC Michels from Lombard, Amanda Stenger from GHS, and yours truly.

Click here to view the [DRAFT Agenda](#). Registration is only $75 for 2 days of hands-on training.

Classroom Spotlight: Jared Bruening

Jared Bruening, 8th Grade Social Sciences teacher at [Churchill Junior High School](#), has been experimenting with the "flipped classroom" approach throughout this school year. Mr. Bruening has been recording background material for students in video format and posting to his class [YouTube Channel](#). He assign students "homework" of watching his videos or those from other educational resources. He and his students then spend class time digging deeper into concepts, applying students' knowledge to current events, and creating/developing collaborative projects. Now students are getting into the act and creating their own videos to show what they have learned!

Google Tricks

[The Google Guru posted this list](#) of nifty but rarely-used search tools within the Google-verse. These include a quick coin-flip tool, Google Comparisons, Translator, and Boolean search tricks like "this -not that" and the asterisk tricks, to name a few.

One trick that is missing is the online timer. Just open the Chrome browser, type in **timer 15 min**, and press the enter key. Up pops a countdown timer that preset at 15 minutes! Try it with other random times to see how it works. Easy-peasy.

Cleaning Chromebooks

Questions are received frequently about how to clean student Chromebook devices, especially during cold & flu season. Here are a few tips:
- Only clean a device that is powered off completely and unplugged from a wall socket.
- Brushing & very light buffing are preferred cleaning methods. Any clean, soft cloth will do - cut up old t-shirts, etc. Brush off the bits with a clean, soft, dry cloth first, or blow

the crumbs & junk off the keyboard like you're whistling. Then buff the smudges on the case gently with that same clean, soft, dry cloth.

- AVOID using compressed or "canned" air. This usually just forces crud deeper into the device.
- If liquid cleaners are needed to cut through encrusted gunk, always spray the liquid very lightly onto on a cloth first, then wipe. NEVER spray water or liquid cleaners of any type onto a computing device.
- Premoistened wipes solely designed for cleaning electronic devices might be okay on the outer case, but avoid getting those near the keyboard, cooling vents, or any of the ports on the sides of the device. These can tend to get too saturated & drippy near the bottom of the container, too. Use extreme caution!
- Never use abrasive cleansers. Never use anything containing bleach or similar - including premoistened wipes - on computing devices.
- AVOID pressing on the LCD screen of any device. Touchscreen Chromebooks are much more delicate than touchscreen tablets & smartphones that use "gorilla glass," etc. Be gentle.
- Gently use the edge or corner of a sheet of paper to get the gunk out of cracks/spaces around keyboard keys, trackpads, etc.

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Professional Development Update

For more activities, please visit District #205's Professional Development Calendar

April 01: Dream Big Book Club, Board Room, 4-5 pm

April 13-May 1: PARCC PBA Test Window for block schedules (GHS only) - Exact dates established by school

April 14: Flipped Learning, Stoney Creek Inn, East Peoria, 830-330

April 15: English/Language Arts Curriculum Alignment Team, Board Room, 8-3

April 20: Flipped Classroom, with Jen Good & Matt Jacobson, Discovery Depot, 6-7pm

April 22: Dream Big Book Club, Board Room, 4-5 pm

April 27-May 22: PARCC EOY Testing Window, Grades 3-8 - Exact dates established by school

May 4-22: PARCC EOY Test Window for block schedules (GHS only) - Exact dates established by school

May 06: [Dream Big Book Club](#), Board Room, 4-5 pm

May 07: Implementing Student Growth with Anne Weerda (Part 2 of 2), East Moline, 9-2

May 19: [Lion's Quest](#), Board Room, All Day (Times TBA)

May 25: No School - Memorial Day

May 27: Math Curriculum Alignment Team, Board Room, 8-3

June 4: Last day of school for students

June 5: Institute Day.

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