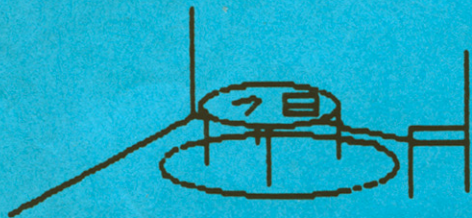


Curriculum Corner



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COMPETENCY BASED EDUCATION

The Minimum Standards for Elementary and Secondary Schools, 1983, adopted by the State Board of Education, require school districts to develop and implement competency based education (CBE) programs. Locally developed competency based education programs must be fully implemented by the fall of 1989 for English composition, mathematics, and reading. These programs must include these elements:

Pupil Performance Objectives (PPO'S)

with specified minimum criteria levels.

Periodic assessment of PPO's

including testing at specified grade levels.

Intervention provided according

to pupil needs.

Teacher committees have selected objectives from the reading, math, and language arts courses of study as PPO items at the elementary level. This task is yet to be completed at the secondary level. While English, reading, and math teachers at all grade levels have a responsibility to assess the appropriate PPO's, formal testing is done in grades 4, 8, and 10. Math and reading are tested using selected items from the California Achievement Test while English composition is tested using a writing sample scored against a locally developed criterion. Test results have been compiled and are being distributed to appropriate personnel at the buildings for analysis and intervention planning.

Intervention is provided "according to pupil needs." Any student not meeting minimum competency needs additional assistance in raising his/her skill level. Intervention strategies are as varied as the students' needs and are best determined by the classroom teacher working with the student on a daily basis.

COMPUTER COMMITTEE

In its two meetings to date, the computer committee has identified three major needs. One need is related to inservice, a second is a need to identify district computer goals, and the third is to provide help in selecting software. The first two needs are being addressed at this time. Further information regarding summer inservice will be provided soon. Philosophy and goals relative to computer education have been proposed to the committee. That proposal is attached to this newsletter. Your reaction is welcome. Share it with your computer committee representative:

Avery - Zandra Davis
Beacon - Darlene Poirier
Brown - Mary Jo Baumeister
Hilliard - Tom Crook
Reason - Mary Panzone
Ridgewood - Lisa Price
Middle - Diana Sanders
Freshman - Bruce Whyte
High - Jim Kinnach

BUSINESS EDUCATION

The business education committee has begun writing its courses of study. New technology and the latest thinking in the subject areas will be reflected in the student objectives. The department hopes to attract more college prep students into some of the business courses. The committee will be working on a proposed keyboarding course to be implemented in 1990-91 if adopted. The committee believes that all students should be required to complete a keyboarding course.

SCIENCE

Much time and effort has gone into the science curriculum review so far and much remains to be done. In addition, a visit to Springfield City included talks with teachers and the program administrator, as well as observations of science lessons. A review of many materials have helped committee members form a solid platform for their work. Much discussion has taken place at the building level. Program goals have been established for the K-12 course of study. Teachers are now working individually and in small groups to complete the tasks of writing objectives, selecting materials, and planning inservice. Committee members should be commended for their efforts to date. Their work will continue on into the summer and certainly into next year. Information concerning an August inservice will be distributed by the end of the year.

ENGLISH AS SECOND LANGUAGE

The district's first course of study for the ESL program has been written. Sue McClincy, ESL tutor, has done an outstanding job in writing a very comprehensive course of study.

MULTI-HANDICAPPED

A course of study for the multi-handicapped program has been written thanks to the efforts of Tammy Wurm and Judy Shoemaker. This document of more than 80 pages describes in detail the skills multi-handicapped students will hopefully develop as they proceed through the program. Even though each special education student has an individualized education plan (IEP), the special education staff feel that it is important to have a comprehensive listing of the developmental skills that teachers will attempt to teach as the student moves through the various grade levels.

SUMMER SCHOOL

An elementary summer school program is in the planning stages for a pilot project. The purpose of the program would be to meet the needs of elementary students who are at risk academically.

GUIDANCE

Program goals have been developed K-12. Guidance counselors are currently developing objectives for the elementary, middle, and high school programs. As this is the first year for guidance counselors in the elementary schools, much building work has been going on. Many ideas, strategies, and materials have been piloted in the elementary classrooms.

LITERATURE SELECTION

A committee of interested language arts teachers from the middle school along with representatives from each elementary school has been meeting to develop a plan for literature selection across grade levels. The purpose of this committee has been to encourage a wide variety of literature sharing with students while avoiding duplication. As literature-based reading becomes a more frequently used approach, the need for such a plan and greater communication among teachers will increase. The members of this committee deserve a pat on the back for being willing to deal with such a difficult problem.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

The librarians and library aides have completed many months of work. Input from elementary classroom teachers was gathered and considered for program development. In addition, a plan was written for course of study input. Included are objectives related to the use of the library and library skills useful across the content areas. The intent is to have such objectives included in courses of study in various subject areas as they are reviewed and revised.

Curriculum Staff

Don Parker	Secondary
Jan Bates	Elementary
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Denise Nettle	Secretary