



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Avon Public Schools

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Gary S. Mala
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

February 3, 2017

Dear Parents, Staff and Concerned Citizens:

I hope this message finds you well this wintery season. It is my pleasure to have the district's Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Dr. Donna Nestler-Rusack, share with you in this message an update regarding Avon Public School's Teaching & Learning:

SPOTLIGHT FOR FEBRUARY 2017

Thompson Brook School will be piloting Enrichment Clusters, an experience where students across grades immerse themselves in a topic of common interest and together develop a plan of action to use their newly acquired knowledge or skill to create a good or service for an authentic audience. Enrichment clusters are part of the School-wide Enrichment Model developed by Dr. Joseph Renzulli, a leader and pioneer in gifted education. Every student will participate in the seven week enrichment session which kicks off on February 8 and boasts 40 clusters with topics that range from altruism to the stock market, calligraphy to health and fitness, and many more. In preparation, students completed an interest survey of general topics they would like to study or explore using this model. TBS teachers used student responses to select a topic for which they will guide a group of students in their study.

Preparations for the 2016-17 state assessments have begun as district and school leaders receive direction for test preparation and changes for this school year. Consistent with last year, all students in grades 3-8 will be assessed in the areas of reading, writing and math on the Smarter Balanced Assessment, and science will be assessed in grades 5, 8 and 10 on the Science CMT and CAPT. For the second time, grade 11 students will take the Connecticut School Day SAT as the required state assessment. By partnering with College Board, Connecticut schools meet the federal and state obligations for student assessment while providing students with an SAT score that is reportable for college entrance. The schedule for state testing is as follows:

Grade 5 CMT April 3 and 4, 2017
Grade 8 CMT April 3-5, 2017
Grade 10 CAPT April 5, 2017
Grade 11 CT School Day SAT April 5, 2017
Grades 3-8 Smarter Balanced May 1 - May 12, 2017

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On February 16th the Curriculum Professional Development Council will meet for the second time this year. Anticipated highlights of the meeting include the K-12 Vertical Math Team's findings and recommendations after reviewing our district's math curriculum, the finalization of a district software approval process, and the continued discussion of best practices in behavioral intervention in an effort to strengthen how we support students on the behavioral side of the SRBI triangle.

Calendar of Events:

- February 2 Grade 5 Science Curriculum Writing, AHS Community Room
- February 8 Performing Arts/Music Curriculum Writing, AHS Community Room
- February 9 Preschool Curriculum Writing, AHS Community Room
- February 16 Curriculum Professional Development Council Meeting, AHS Community Room
- February 17 Grades K-2 Science Curriculum Writing, AHS Community Room

Please feel free to contact Dr. Rusack should you have any questions or seek additional information. Dr. Rusack can be reached at 860-404-4720 or drusack@avon.k12.ct.us.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools. I look forward to communicating with you again very soon.

I remain very truly yours,



Gary S. Mala

Superintendent of Schools Avon Public Schools
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