

# Fairfield City Schools

## Race to the Top

### News You Can Use

*Transparency is our Goal*

A Monthly Newsletter  
Issue 2 - November

#### *Standards and Assessments*

Monthly professional development (PD) activities that have been scheduled for the entire year are well under way. PDs in September and November were devoted to effective instruction through the Marzano book study. October focused on building an awareness of the new/revised standards, and December will build on October's presentation with a focus on rigor in the classroom. What do we mean by increased rigor? That question will be answered in your December PD session.

The standards roll-out process will take place over the next three years. Approximately one third of the teachers in the district will participate this year in professional development; one third will participate in PD in 2012-13; and the final one third will participate in 2013-14.

This year the following teachers will participate in professional development of the new/revised standards which will lead to full implementation next year: PreK-2 teachers – English Language Arts (ELA) and Math; teachers grades 3-6 - Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language (grammar); teachers grades 4-8 - Social Studies; teachers grades 9-12 - American History, World History and Government; teachers grade 9- Math; and teachers grades 11 and 12 - ELA. Science teachers in grades 9-12 will participate in PD this year on instructional practices. The dates have been set for all of the standards roll-out sessions for the year.

FCSD was invited to participate in a formative instructional practices (FIP) pilot. Three groups of teachers have volunteered to be part of this pilot. They are reviewing FIP PD modules for the Ohio Department of Education (ODE).

Fifth grade science teachers have been working on common formative assessments. Teachers from the science department were released for a day to begin this process.

ODE just recently announced that PARCC was selected as the assessment company for 2014-15. There are still many unknowns, but what we do know is online testing will replace the current paper-pencil assessments; will contain multiple measures including multiple choice,

*Area B - Standards and Assessments*

*Area C - Using Data to Improve Instruction*

*Area D - Great Teachers and Leaders*

constructed response and technology-enhanced items, along with performance tasks; will take measures of student progress at intervals during the school year; and will use automated scoring processes that provide real-time results for students and educators. Look for more information to follow.

#### *Using Data to Inform Instruction*

Committee members from Area C will be exploring different data systems this year. ODE was supposed to decide this month on the specifications for the system being developed, but as of yet this has not happened. We are anxiously waiting to hear.

The district DVALs (District Value-Added Leaders) and building administrators have set the dates to train the BLTs on the utilization of Value-Added reports. As part of RttT, buildings will use annual Value-Added reports to guide in the planning of professional development activities. Next year, teachers in grades 4-8 will receive value-added reports on their students. The plan is to train teachers in those grade levels prior to receiving those reports.

#### *Great Teachers and Leaders*

Committee members of administrator evaluation system (OPES), and the teacher evaluation system (OTES) have been meeting to look at FCSD's evaluation systems. The OPES and the OTES must align with the new state system, which is based on the Ohio Standards for Principals and the Ohio Standards for the Teaching Profession. Currently, three teachers at North are involved in an OTES pilot. You will receive more information regarding the pilot in the future. A list of frequently asked questions about the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System is attached.

Another activity in the RttT Scope of Work is to conduct assessments of working conditions and develop an action plan/strategies for improvement. The committee designed a working conditions survey to collect and analyze. The survey will be sent out soon. Look for information regarding survey results to follow later in the year.

**Send Candy Aston an email through the First Class System if you have questions about the contents of this newsletter or anything related to RttT .**