



MID VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT – A LEARNING COMMUNITY DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE

CURRICULUM NEWS



DECEMBER 2016

Curriculum Updates

Secondary students will be using a new **Course Selection Guide** this winter and spring to plan their courses as they consider their post-secondary education and career goals. They will be using the Sapphire system to select courses online, and we hope this process will increase efficiency. Thank you to everyone who has helped revise the guide.

Winter Keystone Biology exams will be administered January 10 – 11, 2017.

Two **textbook adoption committees** are evaluating the district's needs and will make recommendations for new mathematics series in grades K – 8 and for English language arts series in grades K – 6. (See the next page for additional details.)



The Pennsylvania Department of Education made recommendations to the General Assembly on **graduation requirements**. Current state legislation requires students from the class of 2019 and all who follow to pass all three Keystone exams, in addition to earning the required number of credits, in order to earn a high school diploma.

Those requirements remain in place unless the state legislature acts to change them.

The district is exploring the possible development of a **K – 12 STEM program** based on Project Lead the Way.



Mid Valley Elementary Center

New Textbook Series Adoption Process

Two committees are analyzing which mathematics and ELA series can best support our students, teachers, and parents in keeping with best practices in education, promoting the love of learning, and meeting and exceeding the PA Core Standards. The committees include teachers from a variety of grade levels, administrators, and parents. The committees have held meetings, visited other school districts, and will make recommendations for next steps. All members of our community are encouraged to browse and evaluate sample materials and to ask any member of the committees questions about the process. I will advertise dates and times when the materials will be available for review, and you can also request an appointment to do so. The goal is to implement a new math series in the fall of 2017 and a new ELA series in the fall of 2018.



Members of the mathematics committee are shown on the left during a visit to the Tunkhannock Area School District. We observed classes and spoke with teachers and administrators regarding the Math in Focus series, also known as Singapore Math. We also visited Newton Ransom Elementary School in the Abington Heights School District to see how they use Everyday Math 4, the newest edition of that series.

Update from PDE: Act 45 and Act 48 Credit Rollover

On July 13, 2016, the General Assembly enacted changes to the continuing education provisions of section 1205.2 of the Public School Code, 24 P.S. § 12-1205.2. Section 1205.2 was amended to include subsection (n.2), which permits a professional educator to carry forward into the next compliance period up to 50 hours of continuing professional education credits obtained during the final two years of the educator's compliance period that are in excess of the required 180 credit hours for the current compliance period. In light of these changes, the Department is providing this initial guidance to address preliminary questions related to the new statutory provision.

The provisions of section 1205.2(n.2) are applicable to both Act 48 continuing education credit hours and Act 45 PIL credit hours required for school and system leaders. Any professional educator or school or system leader who had an open compliance period on or after July 13, 2016, and has allowable carry over credit hours in accordance with section 1205.2(n.2) may have up to 50 excess credit hours applied to the succeeding compliance period. Section 1205.2(n.2) is not retroactive to any compliance period that closed prior to July 13, 2016. If you have any questions related to the application of Act 48 carry over credits please send your questions to RA-edact48@pa.gov or if you have questions related to Act 45 carry over credits, please contact Carla Wilson at c-cwilson@pa.gov or call [717.346.7112](tel:717.346.7112).