



MID VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT – A LEARNING COMMUNITY DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE

CURRICULUM NEWS



OCTOBER 2016

Professional Education Plan

The Mid Valley School District Professional Education Plan has five major goals listed below.

1. Promote teaching practices that nurture and engage the whole child
2. Increase student engagement, achievement, and growth
3. Develop a comprehensive standards-aligned instructional system
4. Develop teachers' mastery of effective differentiated approaches to planning, instruction, and assessment
5. Establish culture of data-driven decision making processes

Teachers and administrators will work together to develop meaningful professional development opportunities through in-service days and

Spartan University Workshops. Please consider joining or helping the Professional Development Committee.

The highest priority topics, based on teacher feedback and needs assessment results, are listed below.

- improving language and literacy acquisition
- teaching diverse learners in an inclusive setting
- TACT2
- AIMSweb
- Effective and engaging math instructional strategies
- Development and refinement of standards-aligned assessments
- Understanding by Design: Backwards Planning
- Differentiated Planning and Instruction

- How general education teachers can best support students with special needs in their classrooms
- Data-driven instructional Planning: use of formative, diagnostic, and summative assessment data
- PSTAT: PSSA/Keystone training
- ESL
- Gifted



SPARTAN UNIVERSITY

Teachers and administrators will continue to offer informal workshops on a variety of topics. Please contact Mr. Antonetti if you would like to offer a workshop at any point during the school year. The catalog will be distributed soon, and you may register through MyLearningPlan.



Possible topics are listed below.

- ESL: How to meet the needs of English learners (ELs) in general education classes?
- Using PVAAS data to drive student growth
- Providing learning support in general education classes

Important Reminders on Testing

Using Data to Guide Instruction: We are administering DIBELS in grades K – 3 and CDTs in grades 4 – 12. These assessments provide valuable data, but they are only valuable if teachers analyze and use the data to guide instruction and interventions. Your own formative assessments can also provide you with insights into students' learning needs. Please consider how you will revise lessons and how you might create small groups or learning stations within your classrooms to address students' varied needs.

PSSA and Keystone: Please communicate to students the importance of trying to do their best on these exams and of taking them seriously. Throughout the school year, please address the eligible content and expose students to questions similar in format to those in the exams. Please do not stop all “normal” teaching activities a couple of weeks before the exams to conduct intensive “test prep” activities.

WINTER KEYSTONE

ONLINE TEST ADMINISTRATOR TRAINING (PSTAT) WEBSITE AVAILABLE BY
OCTOBER 26, 2016

ADMINISTRATIVE MATERIALS ARRIVE IN DISTRICTS BY NOVEMBER 7, 2016

WAVE 2 TESTING WINDOW JANUARY 9–23, 2017

PSSA

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS TEST WINDOW APRIL 3-7, 2017

MATHEMATICS TEST WINDOW APRIL 24-28, 2017

SCIENCE TEST WINDOW MAY 1-5, 2017

MAKE-UP TEST WINDOW MAY 8-12, 2017

SPRING KEYSTONE

TESTING WINDOW MAY 15–26, 2017