

Interstate 35 Community School District

Principal Report to the Board

Written By: Danielle Woods, Elementary
 Month/Year: April/ 2023

The Interstate 35 Community School District exists to develop life-long learners and responsible, productive, successful citizens in an ever- changing society.

**Any connections to the District Strategic Plan are highlighted in red.

Culture of Learning:

- At the professional development day in March, Mr. Weber administered a survey to certified teachers in attendance that will be utilized as a starting datapoint for our work at the elementary school on our culture of learning. Our starting percent at benchmark baseline was as follows:

Embrace the mess of learning, with every member of the community taking the stance of learner.	65%
Use student evidence and data to drive decision making.	72%
Reflect on and adjust teaching practices based on the needs of students.	40%
Use shared decision making so that teachers' voices, experiences, and perspectives are taken into account.	47%
Focus school improvement efforts on a single goal or strategy.	100%

- At the April professional development session, the elementary teachers reviewed their core values established at the beginning of the year. The consensus was to make the values “less wordy” and thus “more memorable” for teachers to live and breathe in everyday interactions.
 - We do **what is best for kids.**
 - We **focus on what is going well (focus on the positives) (growth mindset)**
 - We **balance the importance** of our work **with grace and dignity** for our teammates and students (**Show grace and dignity**)
 - We seek to **understand**, then to be understood (**trust, seek, understand**)
 - We are **clear** because it **is kind** and make sure the meeting is the only meeting (Be Kind & Professional))
 - We **celebrate our growth** often and intentionally (Celebrate growth)
- Other small notes the team was able to establish:
 - We will maintain the same theme for the 23-24 school year: Roadrunners are Better Together.
 - We will adjust our literacy goal slightly to include a growth measure in addition to a proficiency measure to better engage learners who may be far from the benchmark but can support our school by growing as much as they can.
 - We will maintain our trusted adult goal and roll that into a trusted peer goal as we have done this school year.
 - Our new staff math team will work on a 2nd through 4th or school-wide math goal and

MTSS initiative specific to math.

- We will build onto our classroom community work that was initiated during the middle of the school year and continue to support students with the self-identification structure and common language around Zones of Regulation.
- We will be identifying students qualifying for acceleration in core instructional areas as low as second grade in both math and literacy and supporting an acceleration track for GT students who qualify and excel within that accommodation.

Academic (Core Instruction):

- At the April professional development session, two significant steps were taken around core instruction:
 - First, teachers were able to get differentiated professional development and work time on various sub-areas (we refer to these as big rocks) of core instruction. Teachers were appreciative of the learning opportunity and the time to build content specific to their content areas and grade levels with additional work time.
 - Second, the elementary teachers predicted their final school-wide literacy goal outcomes. There were realizations that we may not be where we want to be just yet, but tons of growth in teaching and learning have occurred. They also recognized that there is still significant time to influence the outcome of that goal and each grade level determined how to ramp-up student learning around the school-wide goal over the course of the instructional weeks before spring FAST testing. Students understand the urgency and it has been fascinating to see their engagement as their teachers have stacked on the rigor.
- Currently for core math curriculum, we utilize Bridges for PK-1 and iReady for 2-4. With the adjustments on our team for next school year, teachers will be departmentalizing in math 2-4 (one teacher per grade level will teach three sections of math). Ms. Crozier will be the math lead on the second grade team, Mrs. Douglas will be the math lead on the third grade team, and Mr. Krull will be the math lead on the fourth grade team. All three teachers are willing to put in the time and effort to align our building to one math curriculum and would like to adopt Bridges up through grade four. This provides common language and practices across our math core curriculum and demonstrates the desire to do what is best for students. As this is something the team is pushing for, we are working to support this shift, and we cannot wait to see the outcomes!

Reminders:

- May 1-12: FAST SPRING Screening Window
- May 4: Preschool Assembly Day 9:45a (Elementary Gym): Guests encouraged
- May 5: Assembly Day (K-2 @2:10p) (3-4 @1:10p) (Auditorium): Guests encouraged
- May 11: Preschool Farm Day
- May 11: 4th Grade Science Fair 5:30p (HS Concourse) Guests Encouraged
- May 11: 3rd & 4th Grade Music Concert 6:30p (Auditorium) Guests encouraged
- May 15: 1st & 2nd Grade Music Concert 6:30p (Auditorium) Guests encouraged
- May 16: Preschool Carnival Day
- May 17: Preschool Picnic Day

Other:

The staff SRG team is working on a webpage update for Standards-Referenced-Grading content and explanation. They have developed a helpful visual to support understanding. SRG may be a topic for learning at an upcoming parent night tentatively scheduled for May 10th

- May 18: 4-Year-Old Preschool Graduation 6p (Auditorium)
Guests encouraged
- May 24: End of Year Ceremony (K-2 @9:00a) (3-4@10:30a)
(Auditorium); Guests encouraged

(more to come as the staff team develops this event centered on several pertinent topics.