Math teachers participate in algebra professional development

This summer, DPSCD offered three series of trainings to Algebra teachers at all high schools, and a training series to select Geometry teachers assigned to Sprint 1 Million schools (Academy of the Americas, Pershing, Derby, East English Village, Southeastern, CMA, Western International, Mumford, Osborn, Frederick Douglass and DIA). The trainings were facilitated at East English Village in July where participants utilized a blended learning platform as well as incorporated the use of the curriculum’s student workbooks. The curriculum, Algebra Nation, has strong alignment to the Common Core of State Standards for Mathematics. The Michigan Legislature and Michigan Department of Education are fully funding the implementation of Algebra Nation across the state where schools can voluntarily opt-in to receive workbooks at no additional cost to school districts.

Michigan Department of Education Public Input Session – Social Studies Standards

Join DPSCD at Martin Luther King Jr. Senior High School on September 13 to learn about the proposed Social Studies Standards changes, and how the community can influence the policy through public comment. The Michigan Department of Education’s panel of experts will review the comments and adjust the recommended standards that will go to the State Board of Education to be considered for adoption when this extended four-month public comment period ends on September 30. You can read about DPSCD’s stance on the proposed new Social Studies Standards at detroitk12.org.

For more information on sessions throughout the state, visit www.michigan.gov/mde.

Curriculum/Academics Sub-Committee Meeting Recap

- Sharlonda Buckman, Assistant Superintendent of Community and Family Engagement, discussed the benefits of Kindergarten Boot Camp. The District launched the Kindergarten Boot Camp program through Parent Academy this summer. The program is unique because parents attended the class with their child. It was designed to prepare pre-K students for kindergarten and to encourage and motivate parents to be early adopters and champions in their child’s education. There were 100 pre-K students who attended across 11 schools this year. This is part of the Parent Academy training for parents. The updated catalog can be found at detroitk12.org.

- During the July sub-committee meeting, Superintendent Dr. Nikolai Vitti presented the results from the Parent Teacher Home Visits (PTHV) Survey and the Parent Interest Survey. The PTHV Survey results showed parents who participated in PTHV reported a stronger relationship with their child’s teacher, home visits instilled confidence when working with their child; and as a result of the home visits, parents attend more school activities. Additionally, parents reported their child’s attendance, grades and behavior improved because of the home visits.

- Lastly, in the July sub-committee meeting, the 2018-2019 Academic Calendar was voted to go before the Board in the August Board Meeting where it was approved for implementation. The academic calendar can be found online at detroitk12.org.

Students Rise. We All Rise.
Addition of SAT and PSAT preparation courses for students

This year, the District will implement SAT and PSAT preparation courses for students in grades 10 and 11 at every high school during the 2018-2019 school year. The courses will leverage the Khan Academy web-based, blended-learning platform for all students to enhance and extend student learning. The District has chosen to utilize this resource because research has shown students exhibit an average improvement of 115 composite points when they spend 30+ minutes on Khan Academy per week (or 2 hours per month). In addition, every child enrolled in the course will receive a copy of The Official SAT Study Guide from College Board. This past summer, teachers attended professional development classes to analyze SAT data, became familiar with College Board and Khan resources, and created the scope and sequence for the course to better prepare students to take the courses.

These assessments are utilized as a gateway to college and scholarships for students. As a result, the District will focus on supporting students as they aspire to achieve college and career readiness scores on the SAT/PSAT assessment through preparation courses. The courses will be supported with a core text for both ELA and Math. Additionally, the District is engaging in a collaboration with College Board, Khan Academy and Wayne RESA to provide initial and on-going professional learning, outlined curriculum maps and technical support.

Talk to your DPSCD principal, school counselor or teacher today about preparing your student for the SAT or PSAT this year.

PREPARING TEACHERS AND PARENTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Teachers worked hard this past summer to learn the new instructional materials for grades K-8, which will be implemented this fall. During the Eureka Math and EL Education workshops, teachers modeled mathematical concepts and dug into what students will be exploring through the themes of the curriculum. Be sure to speak with your student’s teacher to see how you can help at home with Eureka Math’s parent-friendly homework helps, or call our homework help line at 313-576-0100.

DPSCD students have fun while expanding their skills at Detroit Horse Power

Detroit Horse Power expanded opportunities for DPSCD students by teaching social-emotional skills through riding and caring for horses this summer.

In the one-week camp, students learned a variety of skills and gained exposure to horseback riding, walking and grooming the horses, as well as artistic projects. Additionally, children heard from equine professionals who worked with children to educate them about horses and the sport.

“Detroit Horse Power was thrilled to work with Detroit Public Schools Community District by bringing students from Durfee, Thurgood Marshall, and Central High School to the camp during the summer of 2018,” said Detroit Horse Power Founder David Silver. “Students in our program learn how to ride, how to take care of horses, and also the life lessons we can learn from them: confidence, perseverance, empathy, self-control, and responsible risk-taking. Horses can be such powerful teachers. We look forward growing our partnership with the District to provide this opportunity to more students in the future.”

To learn more about the program, visit www.detroithorsepower.org.

DPSCD teachers create lesson plans for this year’s cultural-enriching field trips

This summer, Social Studies Teachers April Dunn, Kern Yax and Kimberly Terry from DIA, FLICS and Palmer Park Academy, respectively, participated in The Henry Ford Teacher Fellows program.

The two-week intensive program was hosted by The Henry Ford with the objective to develop new lesson plans for all DPSCD grade 4 and 5 teachers to use before, during and after field trips at the Henry Ford entities.

The lessons students will learn during and after their field trip to The Henry Ford will tie into the District’s Whole Child Commitment, as well as Cultural Passport, a program that serves to expose every DPSCD K-8 student to enriching, fine art experiences and historic landmarks.

“The field trips of the past are long gone. We now have the Blueprint 2020, which aligns with the college and career readiness standards. This new lesson plan will allow for fun field trips with a purpose,” exclaimed Kimberly Terry.

CLASS LIBRARIES

Our new K-8 ELA curriculum, EL Education, contains units designed around rich educational books. The District will be providing teachers with classroom myON online libraries that include supplemental texts corresponding to the thematic units of each unit to assist students with comprehension.

myON digital book library offers thousands of age-appropriate titles for grades Pre-K-12. The platform matches each individual learner’s interests, grade and reading level and is available to students 24/7 year-round. Parents and students will continue to have access to myON online libraries that include supplemental texts corresponding to the thematic units of each unit to assist students with comprehension.

To learn more about myON, visit www.myon.com.

NBSE SEEK Camp

Summer 2018 marked the seventh year the Office of Mathematics has teamed up with National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) to bring the Summer Engineering Experience for Kids (SEEK) Camp to Detroit area students at Mackenzie Elementary-Middle School. There are only 11 camps in the nation and this is the only camp in the state of Michigan. The SEEK program is facilitated by collegiate mentors from various colleges and universities across the nation and utilizes a project based curriculum. Throughout out the three-week program, grade 3–5 students worked in teams to solve problems and create products while discovering underlying mathematics and science principles. Each week the students worked on a new project, culminating with an oral presentation, design competition, and physical competition, which families attended each Friday. For more information on NBSE SEEK Camp, visit www.nsbe.org/Seek.