Educational Services BUSD

Newsletter

2014-15
VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2014

Welcome Back Fall 2014

Welcome back for the 2014-15 school year. This year presents many new changes for education. In the Barstow Unified School District, we are implementing the new adopted K-8 Go Math! curriculum. In English Language Arts we are using our current BUSD adopted curriculum with two pathways that are aligned to the ELA Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

The implementation of the Common Core State Standards will bring changes in our benchmark assessments and K-6 report cards. Working through the process of change can feel daunting. Sharing and working together as a team will provide support as we implement changes to build a strong academic program that prepares all BUSD students for future college and career opportunities.
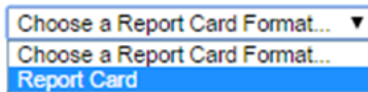
"The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it and join the dance." —Alan Watts

2nd grade teachers collaborating on the 2014-15 K-6 CCSS Report Cards.

K-6 Report Cards for 2014-15

The K-6 Grade Level Teams for English Language Arts and Math met throughout the 2013-14 school year providing information for the Common Core Curriculum Guides. As we begin the implementation of the curriculum, we needed to revisit the K-6 report cards. A template was provided to teachers for their consideration and input. The results of the revisions will be reflected on the report cards. The report cards can be viewed in Infinite Campus in the **Student Information >General** folder under the **Grades** tab.

Choose a Report Card Format... ▼
Choose a Report Card Format...
Report Card

- Spanish translation of the new report cards is currently in progress and they will be available by the end of September.

- The **BOLD** lines of text listed under **"ANCHOR STANDARDS:"** shown on the ELA & Math blocks will <u>not</u> show on-screen when teachers are inputting grades in the Infinite Campus Gradebook. The bolded **ANCHOR STANDARDS** will <u>only</u> show on printed copies of report cards.

HELLO my name is Ed-Services

Information from BUSD Calendar

September 16, 6 pm
Skyline North Back to School Night

September 18, 6PM
BJHS Back to School Night

October 1, 10AM
Volunteer Training

October 14, Columbus Day Holiday

October 23-31
Red Ribbon Week

October 24
Wear Red Day

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2014-15

The **CAASPP** includes computer-based and pencil paper assessments for the state of California.

California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress

(Online Computer– Based Assessments)

The Summative Assessment will include English Language Arts and Math

- Grades 3-8 and 11

- Grade 11 used for Early Assessment Program (EAP) purposes

Testing Window

- Grades 3-8: students will have received 66% of instructional days

- Grade 11: students will have received 80% of instructional days

(**BUSD**: conversation will be held with principals in the development of site testing schedules)

Additional Assessments 2014-15

- CST, CMA, CAPA, Science (Grades 5,8 and 10) – Paper-pencil assessment

- NCSC Field Test replaces CAPA for ELA and Math (**BUSD** is not participating in this field test)

- STS, RLA Grades 2-11 – paper-pencil assessment

SBAC Training & Practice Tests

It is important that students have multiple opportunities to access these tests prior to the SBAC assessment in the Spring.

Practice and training tests can be accessed via the **SBAC Secure Browser.** A shortcut should be on the desktop of devices that were used for testing in Spring 2014. The browser is also available for download in the **Application Catalog** on BUSD Windows computers. The **AIRSecureTest** app. is available for iPads. **SBAC Help Resources** http://sbac.portal.airast.org/ca/field-test-ca/resources/

SBAC Training Tests

Provides students with an opportunity to quickly become familiar with the software and interface features. There are 3 grade bands 3-5, 6-8 and High School. There are approximately 15 items per grade band (6 in ELA and 8-9 in math). There are no performance tasks. All Universal Tools, Designated Supports and Accommodations for the Field Tests are included on the Training Test. Items are not scored.

SBAC Practice Tests

Provide students with a grade specific testing experience that is similar in structure and format to the Field Test. The tests are grade specific 3-8 and 11. There are approximately 30 items in ELA and 30 items in math per grade level. It includes one ELA performance task and one math performance task per grade level. Most Universal Tools, Designated Supports and Accommodations are included. Items are not scored; however, answer keys and scoring rubrics are available. http://sbac.portal.airast.org/ca/practice-test-ca/

K-6 ASSESSMENTS

The K-6 Report Cards are directly aligned to the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Math. The Math Benchmark Assessments for the 2014-15 school year will be the Go Math! Chapter Tests found in the Assessment Ancillary at each grade level. These assessments follow a taught/tested model of assessment. The Go Math! assessments are aligned to SBAC in the form of evidence-center design questions. Specific information regarding this design model can be found at the SBAC website Mathematics General Specifications.

The BUSD K-6 Math Pacing Calendar provides an overview of when the Chapter Tests are to be administered. (Grade 7-8 Math Pacing Guide is being developed.)   For each trimester, the average of the Chapter Tests indicated on the Pacing Calendar will be the Benchmark Score on the report card. The pacing calendar provides teachers the flexibility to provide students with in-depth instruction on lessons. Although there is a specific date marked in red for the Chapter Tests to be administered, Principals have decided to provide a window of 2 days before the date and 2 days after the date for test administration. This will give teachers an opportunity to scan the assessments into Illuminate. Teachers can then share student data and instructional strategies at grade level meetings.

Although it is the desire of the District to provide online math testing, there have been technological concerns that we continue to address. Therefore, at this time, the Chapter Tests will be administered using a paper/pencil format. Teachers must print out their classroom answer sheets from Illuminate.   Teachers will receive classroom sets of the chapter tests. Students will be able to bubble in some, multiple choice answers on the answer sheet. However, since many of the items are SBAC aligned using the evidence-centered design and may require and extended response, teachers will grade the students' answers and bubble in the score on the answer sheet. The answers to the Chapter Tests can be found in the Go Math! Assessment Guide ancillary.

On Your Mark, Get Set... GO Math!

Teachers, kindergarten through 8th grade, have begun to implement the newly adopted GO Math! curriculum. An August buy back day of training with the publisher, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, was offered to help teachers become familiar with the layout of the Common Core aligned math program. A big shout out to all who attended. Your participation was greatly appreciated.

Blips 'n Tips

Teachers may have faced a few technical challenges as Think Central, the electronic piece of K-6 GO Math! became available. For example, the Interactive Student Edition might not have loaded completely or the "Math on the Spot" videos would not play.   Our terrific IT department saw the need and immediately rolled out the latest version of Adobe Flash Player required to play the interactive and video portions of the lessons. If you are still having issues, try updating your computer with the *PolicyUpdate* utility in the Staff Tools folder located in *All Programs*. Also, for best results, use Firefox or Chrome as your browser when accessing Think Central or the 7-8th grade website, my.hrw.com

The Help Center located on your GO Math! dashboard is a great resource to help you become acquainted with the workings of Think Central and my.hrw. However, if you still have questions, please contact Sherry Powell for assistance. (sherry_powell@busdk12.com or ext.6224).

The following overview of the K-6 curriculum guides is provided to support teachers in their lesson planning. More detailed information will be provided at upcoming professional development sessions.

K-6 ELA Curriculum Resource Guide Overview

Curriculum = *HMH Excursions:*	Cover-to-Cover Pathway	Unit-of-Study Pathway
Standards:	CCSS ELA/ELD *Using the HMH Enhancement Pack*	CCSS ELA/ELD

Reading:
  Literature and
  Informational Text
	Excursions
	Teacher Support Book: Extending California's Common Core State Standards
	Integrated Planning Guide: Extending California's Common Core State Standards
	Reading Adventures magazine
	Excursions ancillaries
	Additional informational and literary texts – listed on the *Curriculum Guide*
	Excursions and/or Social Studies Leveled Readers
	CCSS Performance Tasks, Lessons, and Activities
		CCSS Units based on the *Excursions* texts
		
		Used as need for CCSS instruction:
		  Excursions ancillaries
		  Excursions pacing (for Reading Foundational Skills & Language)
		  Teacher Support Book: Extending California's Common Core State Standards
		  Integrated Planning Guide: Extending California's Common Core State Standards
		  Reading Adventures
		  Common Core Writing Handbook
		  Leveled Readers*: Excursions* and/or Social Studies
		  CCSS aligned core literature
		  Common Core text exemplars
		  Integrated science and social studies informational texts
		  CCSS Performance Tasks, Lessons, and Activities

Grammar/Spelling/Phonics	*Excursions* pacing (for Reading Foundational Skills & Language) and/or other texts and resources to teach the CCSS	*Excursions* pacing and/or other texts and resources to teach the CCSS
Writing	*Excursions* writing lessons and *Common Core Writing Handbook*	*Common Core Writing Handbook* and other writing resources (Step-Up to Writing, etc.)
Listening and Speaking	*Excursions* listening and speaking lessons integrated into daily lessons	Integrated into daily lessons
History and Science	History and Science guided by the adopted text pacing	See above - these are integrated into the ELA Units of Study

*Both pathways teach all of the CA Common Core State Standards throughout each six week unit/theme spiraling, reviewing, reteaching, and going more in-depth as the year progresses.

*The adopted *HMH Excursions* curriculum is the foundation of **what** we are teaching; however, because it is based on '97 standards, integrating CCSS standards, rigor, and strategies is required.

*The curriculum itself does not provide the **how** teachers will use it in the classroom. This is what makes a Common Core classroom, not the pathway chosen.