

Vashon Island School District Curriculum Update 2006-07

December 29, 2006

Happy New Year

Early Release Day: Friday, January 26th

This early release day presents an opportunity for middle school staff to work on first semester grades. The elementary and high school staff will work on curriculum alignment and classroom-based assessments. Please refer to your professional development matrix (in your blue staff binder). The matrix is also available online at http://vashonsd.org/curriculum/docs/Professional_Development_Matrix_0607.pdf.

Curriculum Links

The VISD Writing Guide is available at http://vashonsd.org/curriculum/index.php?/curriculum/pages/writing_curriculum/

The VISD Mathematics Guide is available at http://vashonsd.org/curriculum/index.php?/curriculum/pages/mathematics_curriculum/

The VISD Draft Reading Guide is available at http://vashonsd.org/curriculum/docs/VISD_Reading_Guide.pdf

Instructional Materials

Expenditures:

PTSA Writing Funds (Auction 2005) Corrected Expenditures:

Actual expense: \$576.59 (Originally encumbered \$1185.00) Bedford Glossary of Literary Terms (VHS--AP English)

New PTSA Grant:

PTSA Science Curriculum (High School Textbooks)—more details in the next update. Thank you PTSA.

Procedures:

The next draft of procedure 2124P will be sent to you by Thursday, January 4th. Please review it and please send your feedback to me by Friday, January 12th.

Materials Matrix:

A matrix of adopted instructional materials for general education is available at http://vashonsd.org/teacherweb/spencer/files/Instructional_Materials_Matrix.pdf

An updated draft of the instructional matrix for special services is available at http://vashonsd.org/teacherweb/spencer/files/Instructional_Materials_Matrix_Special_Services.pdf

Instructional Materials Fundraising

Selling Used Textbooks:

These are the textbooks that people have identified as potential surplus items:
World: Adventures in Time and Place, McGraw Hill/National Geographic, 2000
World Geography: Building a Global Perspective, Prentice Hall, 2000
Writer's Inc., Great Source, editions preceding 2001

If you have others to add, I will need the title and the copyright date. Please send me the information by Friday, January 10th. I will prepare the list of titles, review them with administrators and appropriate teaching staff, and then request that the Board of Directors approve them for surplus. I would like to have the list ready for the second board meeting in January. Once the textbooks are on the surplus list, we must notify neighboring districts to see if they have an interest in any of our titles. If none of the districts express an interest in the materials, then we may contact several used textbook companies to see if they would like to purchase any of the books on our list.

COSMEO—Discovery Learning, Learning Adds Up: Hopefully you have had the opportunity to explore the COSMEO Web site a little bit. The school district is not paying for access to this site nor do we plan to pay for access to this site (we currently have free accounts to use at each school for the next several months). If parents decide to subscribe to the site, we will receive 15% to 25% of their subscription fee depending on the enrollment. We will use the funds for purchasing instructional materials.

I am interested in your feedback regarding the COSMEO Web site. I have heard from a few staff already and have forwarded their comments to the people at Discovery Learning, Learning Adds Up.

Finally, the Curriculum Web site has a number of links to free homework help that may also help support student learning. These may be found under student resources—feel free to explore these and to share the links with your students.

Professional Development

In-district offerings:

Professional Book Club, Mondays, CES, 3:30 (open to all), up to 30 clock hours available

Basic Windows, Dec 6th, 3:30-4:15 in the CES Lab or Dec 13th, 2:30-3:15 in the McM Lab, no clock hours available—several staff participated in these trainings

Red Cross Shelter Training (8:30 to 4:30), Wednesday, December 20th at the VHS Library, 8 clock hours available (cancelled—will be rescheduled)

Mentor/Mentee Program (TAP), the next meeting takes place on Wednesday, January 24th, 3:15 pm at Chautauqua.

Out of district trainings:

If you attend an out of district training sponsored by your school or the district, please let me know. We track the types of professional development activities in a yearly report for the school board. Also, please remember to complete the evaluation form as it helps us with our planning www.vashonsd.org/curriculum/docs/Feedback_Form_Professional_Development.pdf

Paperwork

Salary Schedule Growth Step Form (clock hour/credit pre-approval):
www.vashonsd.org/curriculum/docs/Clock_hour_form.pdf

Program/School Improvement Plans

The Program/School Improvement Plans were presented to the Board of Directors on Thursday, November 9th. You may access this year's report as well as last year's report at the Web links provided below.

The 2006-07 P/SIPs Report is available at
www.vashonsd.org/curriculum/index.php?/curriculum/pages/program_and_school_improvement_plans_for_2006_07/

The 2005-06 P/SIPs Report (narrative report) and data file is available at
www.vashonsd.org/curriculum/index.php?/curriculum/pages/school_improvement_plans/

Science Guide (draft for high school)

The link for the draft science guide for high school is:
http://vashonsd.org/curriculum/index.php?/curriculum/pages/vashon_island_school_district_science_curriculum/

Update on the OSPI Social Studies Grant

We are still waiting for final approval. We were recommended for \$2500. Diane or I will notify you as soon as we hear from OSPI.