



The curriculum team of Carteret County Schools presents...

Curriculum Counts

M O N T H L Y N E W S L E T T E R

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Curriculum Counts is being produced by the Curriculum Team of the Carteret County Public School System for the purpose of sharing information with school system faculty and staff members, administrators, parents, elected officials and community members.

We urge you to forward this newsletter to those you think could benefit from the information shared, and we invite you to contact Assistant Superintendent Jeanne Huntley, 252-728-4583, ext. 127.

Topics for October/November 2008 Edition:

Three additional schools implement Read 180

Contributed by Jeanne Huntley, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Read 180 is a comprehensive, scientifically research-based program that incorporates rigid teacher education standards, comprehensive instruction by certified teachers, purposeful assessment, and data-driven instruction to meet the individual needs of students.

This program is already being used by East Carteret High School, Morehead City Middle School and West Carteret High School. At each of these schools the program is showing great promise in closing reading gaps.

This year three more schools are implementing the Read 180 program. Those schools are Beaufort Elementary School, Morehead City Elementary School and Newport Elementary School.

Integrating 21st Century real world problems and video clips, Read 180 assesses students daily and they are provided direct instruction based on diagnostic needs. This instruction is through a rotation of teacher-led, computer-generated instruction and literature that matches the student's interests and abilities to maximize engagement.

After evaluating trends in test data, there is evidence to support that increasing comprehension in reading will pay huge dividends in all areas of the curriculum.

Read 180 is a product of Scholastic. It has been studied and evaluated since 1985 in schools and has the potential for students to make two years growth with one year of instruction.

The plan is to continue to evaluate the success of this program and the needs of our students, and to gradually add more capability for this instruction across the county.

New Assessment Program launching in 2009

Contributed by Jeanne Huntley, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

After one year of studying the assessment needs of our county and reviewing software that is available to us, the curriculum team has determined that ClassScape will meet those needs. In the past our End-of-Grade and End-of Course tests offered us no individual diagnostic information other than the proficiency score. Classroom teachers and schools could obtain Goal Summary reports which highlighted how a group of students performed on the goals of the curriculum. ClassScape is based in North Carolina and designs questions only for North Carolina schools. These folks have a collaborative partnership with the group that writes and tests all of the items for the North Carolina testing system making it completely tied to North Carolina's Standard Course of Study. With the use of this in all of our schools, we will have

common information that can be used to meet the instructional needs of our students should they transfer schools within our county. ClassScape offers a wealth of student, teacher, parent, and school wide reports about students on an ongoing basis throughout the semester and year. This will help teachers address the needs of the students on a more frequent basis and adjust instruction accordingly.

ClassScape is:

- Web-based
- User friendly
- Quick

Highlights are listed:

- Give teachers ample diagnostic information to plan instruction
- Give teachers the ability to make brief assessments as often as needed based on what has been taught.
- Give teachers a selection of questions ranging from easy to difficult and across all levels of Bloom's taxonomy mirroring the state assessments. Teachers can view and change their assessments as needed. For example some students may require higher level, difficult questions to be answered while others would need a different configuration.
- Pre and Post testing by objective in the curriculum. These tests can "drill down" to sub-objectives in each area and provide a great deal of information about skills the student has and is missing.

Teachers in grades 3-8 and those teaching courses that have end-of-course tests have been trained. Further follow-up training is planned. Those who have used this are very excited about the information it provides and its utility to them as classroom teachers. We look forward to teachers using this more and more as they see the value of having this information to drive daily instruction.

C & I Topics

Submitted by Nancy Allen, Curriculum Specialist

Math & Science:

Want some dynamic teaching and learning resources – FREE? Go to <http://free.ed.gov/>. On this site you will find resources from all subject areas. I tried to find examples of but my descriptions would not do the site any justice! Just go and explore!

Grant Opportunities:

- All math and science teachers in North Carolina are eligible to receive mini-grants on the Donors Choose site from the Burroughs-Wellcome Foundation. Go to DonorsChoose.org and submit your proposal.
- Each year, Vernier Software & Technology and the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) present the most resourceful science teachers in the country with the Vernier Software & Technology/NSTA Technology Award. The awards, valued at \$3000 each, will be given to seven educators judged to have created the best inquiry-based, hands-on learning activities using data-collection technology interfaced with computers, graphing calculators, and other handheld devices. Up to one elementary teacher, two middle school teachers, three high school teachers, and one college-level educator will receive the technology awards. Each award consists of \$1000 in cash, \$1000 in Vernier equipment, and \$1000 toward travel and expenses for attending NSTA's 2009 National Convention. Entries are due by November 30, 2008 and will be judged by a panel of experts appointed by NSTA.

Downloadable applications and guidelines are available on the Vernier web site at www.vernier.com/grants. Educators can be nominated or self-nominate for the awards.

- Become an Eco-Hero with the *Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge!*
NSTA has partnered with the Siemens Foundation and Discovery Communications in an important initiative to educate, empower and engage students, teachers and communities to become agents of change in improving the environment. Starting today, middle school students across the United States are being encouraged to "go green" and team up for the *Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge*, the first and only national K-12 sustainability education initiative aligned to education standards and uniquely tailored to match student growing comprehension abilities throughout their school-aged years. Student teams of two to three students from sixth through eighth grade, under the mentorship of a teacher or adult supervisor, can register for the *Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge* at www.wecanchange.com. Participating teams will identify an environmental issue in their community, research the issue using scientific investigation, and create a replicable green solution using web-based curriculum tools powered by Discovery Education.
All student teams entering the Middle School Challenge will receive prizes for their participation; top-performing teams, as judged by a panel of environmental experts and science educators, will earn cash, teacher education materials, and unique Discovery Experience trips. The grand prize-winning team will receive a comprehensive prize package that includes an appearance on the Discovery Television Network Planet Green and a once-in-a-lifetime Discovery Adventure Trip, accompanied by a Discovery TV personality.
More information, including entry details, registration, and Frequently Asked Questions, can be found at www.wecanchange.com.
- U.S. Satellite Laboratory announces several special professional development and curriculum opportunities for schools in each state. This opportunity is no-fee, proven, and exciting, thematic science curriculum with teacher training and ongoing support. Our simple-to-implement classroom programs are currently sponsored by NASA, NSF, and NOAA and teach science in various engaging contexts. Training is free and online. It is very interactive and LIVE. Three programs feature and include:
 - Project 3D-VIEW [Virtual Interactive Environmental Worlds]. Grade 5-6. Earth science curriculum uses extensive 3D visualizations for concepts in Air, Life, Water, Land and Earth systems. Strong language arts and math components. 600 U.S. teacher spaces remaining (2/school).
 - Signals of Spring-ACES [Animals in Curriculum-based Ecosystem Studies]. Grade 7-8 or high school. Teach science in the context of the ocean. Track marine animals in real time through this comprehensive curriculum covering traditional standards-based content. 100 teacher spaces available (2 per school).
 - SPRINTT [Student Polar Research with IPY National Teacher Training. Grade 5-high school. With an Alaska Native lens, students perform research about Earth's polar regions using authentic data. Lessons focusing on Frozen Water, Frozen Land and Food lead to the research. 1,500 teacher spaces available.

For more information visit: www.us-satellite.net

Healthful Living:

SPARK is coming to Carteret County Schools. We are making arrangements for our K-8 Healthful Living teachers to be trained in this dynamic curriculum. More information coming soon!

Career Technical Education News

Submitted by Beth Heal, Career Technical Education Director

High School Pre-Engineering Program Underway

Carteret County Schools, along with the Fleet Readiness Center at Cherry Point and the NCSU and ECU Schools of Engineering are working together to provide and promote an Engineering Academy for high school students. Career opportunities in Engineering abound at the FRC as well as the new Spirit AeroSystems which will be coming to the Global Transpark in 2010. The community partners are working to offer *Project Lead the Way*, a program designed to engage high school students through a combination of activity-based, project-based, and problem-based learning. Activities and problem/project-based learning not only create an environment for applying engineering concepts to real problems, but also prepares students to:

- Solve problems
- Participate as part of a team
- Lead teams
- Speak to a public audience
- Conduct research
- Understand real-world impacts
- Analyze data
- Learn outside the classroom

The partners will hold a morning workshop for middle and high school counselors at the IAT School located in Havelock on November 6, 2008. This will be an informative and fun meeting designed to provide information on Engineering education at the high school and college levels and on the many engineering careers available in our area.

Look for more information to come on *Project Lead the Way* in the next newsletter!

Carteret County Schools Provides Leaders for NCACTE

The North Carolina Association for Career Technical Education has chosen their President for 2 years in a row from Carteret County Schools. Scot Whitfield, Drafting teacher at WCHS was installed as the NCACTE President for 2008-09 at the state convention held in July. Outgoing President, Bena Weires held the post for the 2007-08 year. Kudos to both Bena and Scot for their hard work and dedication to Career Technical Educators throughout the state.

Regional CDC Meeting

Carteret County Schools hosted the Southeast Region Fall Workshop for Career Development Coordinators on October 1, 2008. The meeting was held at Carteret Community College where 45 CDC's from Region II toured the campus focusing on the Martec, Business, Interior Design, and Photography Associate Degree programs. One of the meeting highlights included a presentation on the partnership between Carteret County Public School System and Carteret Community College to provide a Health Science Pathway for high school students interested in exploring health careers.

West Carteret High School Student Names to Top State Leadership Role

Stephen Lupton was elected by his peers and advisors to lead NC- SkillsUSA as President for the 2008-09 year. He served as WCHS president his freshman year and demonstrated leadership skills which led to his election as president at the regional and state levels during his sophomore year. He plans to pursue office at the National level next year. In addition to his attendance this summer at the recent NC Association of Career & Technical Education, Stephen has enhanced his

leadership skills at the SkillsUSA National Conference in Kansas City and the Broyhill Youth Leadership Conference in Boone.

Trade & Industrial Education Workshop

On November 20, 2008, more than 100 Trade and Industrial Education teachers from all over NC will come to Carteret County for a 3 day workshop which will begin Thursday evening with a dinner meeting at the Bistro. Sessions will be held at the Hampton Inn Friday and half-day Saturday. Participants will tour local industry, learn new skills, and connect through networking. T&I teachers interested in attending this annual event should contact Scot Whitfield at West Carteret High School.

The Changing World of ESL

Contributed by Andrea McLean, English as a Second Language Program Coordinator

The 2008-2009 school year will be one of change in the world of English as a Second Language (ESL) across our state. In June, the North Carolina Board of Education voted on and approved North Carolina's affiliation with the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) Consortium. The WIDA Consortium is composed of 19 states. The Consortium's vision of language proficiency encompasses both social and academic contexts tied to schooling, particularly to standards, curriculum, and instruction. The goal is to link language learning to academic content. With this affiliation, ESL programs across the state will be in a year of transition. New assessment instruments, W-APT (the screener test to determine ESL eligibility) and the ACCESS (the annual assessment) will be put in place this school year along with the WIDA ELP Standards.

The WIDA ELP Standards reflect the social and academic dimensions of acquiring a second language that are expected of English language learners in grade levels K-12 attending schools in the United States. Each of the five standards addresses a specific context for English language development. Overall, the standards center on the language needed and used by English language learners in school. These standards are a critical tool to aid educators in the design of curriculum, instruction and assessment. The ELP Standards are:

1. Social and Instructional Language
2. The language of Language Arts
3. The language of Mathematics
4. The language of Science
5. The language of Social Studies

Along with new standards we have new performance definitions. The performance definitions define the expectations of students at each proficiency level. The language proficiency levels describe expected performance and also what an English language learner can do within each domain of the standards. The new proficiency levels are as follows:

- Level 1 is Entering
- Level 2 is Beginning
- Level 3 is Developing
- Level 4 is Expanding
- Level 5 is Bridging
- Level 6 is Reaching

Carteret County's ESL staff works to educate the classroom teachers who work with the system's English language learners, concerning the WIDA Standards, the new performance definitions and assessments as they relate to individual student's abilities and needs. Teachers should find this approach most helpful in making content more comprehensible to the school system's limited English speaking children.

Visit our Website at: <http://carteretcountyschools.org/ESL/index.htm>

FOCUS ON SCHOOLS

MCMS Summer Read Adventure 2008

Submitted by Dega Lancaster, Morehead City Middle School 7th Grade Language Arts Teacher and Department Head

This year the Morehead City Middle School family embarked on the reading adventure by reading The Lightning Thief by author Rick Riordan. A student committee of former 6th and 7th grade students, now 7th and 8th grade students, helped kick off the 2008 summer read. They now work along with new 6th grade members to plan activities to promote literacy and celebrate our summer read throughout the school year.

The kick off included a student created video and blog, both of which are accessible on the school's website. Daily announcements were made encouraging students to read The Lightning Thief and not miss out on the fun. Copies of the novel were sold at a discount price, with the student council picking up the cost difference.

When the school year began, we participated in The Lightning Thief trivia with Athena's Assessment. Prizes were awarded that related to the book to students with the correct response. Prizes were distributed at lunch again celebrating the book and reading adventure. Our goal is to have an activity every month. In September the activity was a Toga Dance and a workshop to create togas. The dance focused on Greek activities, which supports the Greek traditions found within the novel. In October, our activity will be a Greek week again emphasizing Greek traditions and elements from the book. In November, our huge end of the first 12 weeks event, and in combination with PBS, will encompass PBS Olympics. This will be a day long, school wide, field day type event with Olympic activities, and activities from the book like *capture the flag*.

The students at MCMS are on fire with our reading challenge. We are stoking this fire with our first ever adolescent reading club. Our book for the month of September was Found by Margaret Haddix. The first discussion meeting took place in late September at a local restaurant. More information is available through Dega Lancaster's blog by clicking on Radical Readers, which is the name of the club. This club focuses on readers and adolescents, but it is open to parents, teachers and community members. Reading is an adventure, and Morehead City Middle School enjoys our literary explorations.

Have a Curriculum & Instruction idea or success to share?

Email it to jeanne.huntley@carteretk12.org

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Be sure to visit the Curriculum & Instruction website at <http://www.carteretcountyschools.org/ci/>