

Elementary Curriculum

Washington Township Public Schools

Fall 2015

Welcome Back!

The beginning of a new school year reminds us that the future holds infinite possibilities. We hope that your summer was relaxing and filled with adventures. The opportunity to refuel over the summer is a necessary component of the important work of educators. I know that we are about to begin a great school year filled with hope, vision, and excitement. As we begin this new year, I wish everyone the greatest success as we welcome our students to their educational journey of the 2015-2016 school year.

Congratulations to Mary Byatt!



Senator Fred Madden
Mary Byatt
Bob Byatt
Senate President Steve Sweeney

Mary was named the New Jersey Elementary Social Studies Teacher of the Year by the NJ Council for Social Studies! On August 13th, Mary received a proclamation commemorating her achievement from the New Jersey Senate. We are so proud of Mary and her accomplishment!



Welcome Back ~ Have a great year!

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

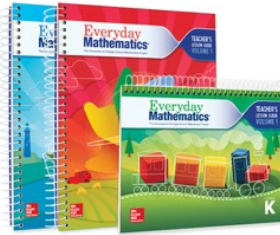
- Nelson Mandela

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connectED



EVERYDAY MATH 4

It is important to have parity among the schools and grade levels when using PowerSchool weights for grading. As we embark on our first year of implementation, the following weights and grading procedures are required:

Weighted Math Grades

40% Tests
25% Quizzes
25% Classwork
10% Homework

Assessments

The Checking Progress Assessments – The assessments found in the new Everyday Math 4 series, will be used as the unit tests. A hard copy, containing the point system will be provided by the BSI Math department. These may be modified for special education students per the IEP, but it is imperative that the question(s) modified still address the standard and/or the IEP goal.

Challenge Question – Since these tasks sometimes contain skills found in older grade level standards, they should be administered to count as extra credit on the unit tests. The challenge questions are worth up to ten points, and points have been assigned to each question. However, teachers will need to make a judgment call on partially accurate responses.

Open Ended Question – This component should count as a separate quiz grade using the rubric provided with the EM teacher's manual and the scoring system below. Teachers should use their best judgment in grading .

3 pts = 100%
2 pts = 90%
1 pts = 80%
0 pts = 70%

Study Guides

Sample study guides will be provided by the Basic Skills department. A study guide must be provided to all students; however, the sample study guide is only a guideline. It is not required.

ConnectED

Everyday Math has included valuable resources such as the Home Links, the Student Reference Book, and games on ConnectED. In order to set up your classes, you'll need to watch the video entitled, "Everyday Math ConnectED Set Up Tutorial" on the "W:" drive. Once you are set up, you and your students can access all that ConnectED has to offer!

Math Facts

Reminder: The math fact assessments are administered in the following manner:

Test for one minute using one color pencil to complete the assessment; then complete the assessment using a different color. The one minute timed testing administration allows us to test fluency, and the students are able to complete the assessment for additional practice. It also aims to reduce stress by allowing time for students to finish.

CHANGE: Fifth grade no longer needs to report on addition facts on the benchmark reporting form. The addition facts may still be practiced with students still in need of mastery.

PowerSchool



Weights for Grades 3-5

Math

Tests – 40 %

Quizzes – 25%

Classwork – 25%

Homework – 10%

Reading

Tests – 30 %

Quizzes – 20%

Classwork/
Participation – 40%

Homework – 10%

Writing

Published/Process
Piece – 40 %

Writer's Notebook – 15%

Classwork/Participation/
Home Practice – 20%

Quizzes/Benchmark
Assessments/On
Demand Writing – 15%

Word Study – 10%



RENAISSANCE LEARNING—STAR EARLY LITERACY, READING, MATH, AND AR TESTS

Benchmarks Versus Unit Tests

<u>Benchmarks</u>	<u>Unit Tests/Pre/Post Assessments & Summative Assessments on Excel Sheet in place of Pupil Progress Indicators</u>
The benchmark assessments listed below <u>may not be modified</u> :	
Reading – STAR Reading	Reading – DRA Levels
Math – STAR Math	Unit Tests (District Created)
Writing – 1 Baseline Prompt; 1 Winter Prompt; 1 Spring Prompt	<i>Reading Unit tests may be modified as per the IEP.</i>
Science – District Science Benchmarks (Special Ed.– Additional ways to assess student knowledge based on the student IEP should be included in the gradebook).	Foundations – Unit Tests
Social Studies – District Social Studies Benchmarks (Special Ed.– Additional ways to assess student knowledge based on the student IEP should be included in the gradebook).	Math – Unit Tests Fact Tests (Pre—Post)
Spanish – Grades 3 & 4 Benchmarks	Math Unit Tests – Grades 1-5: Use the EDM 4 assessments; <i>Special Education may modify the assessments to address the same standards or IEP goals (if needed).</i>
Special Areas – Department Benchmarks	

STAR Testing Windows 2015-2016

Fall Window	Wed. September 9, 2015 - Tues. October 6, 2015
Winter Window	Wed. February 3, 2016 - Tues. March 1, 2016
Spring Window	Wed. May 18, 2016 - Tues. June 14, 2016*

Reading and Writing News!

The ELA Committee (K-2) will convene to research and adopt curriculum for the 2016-2017 school year for reading and writing in the primary grades.

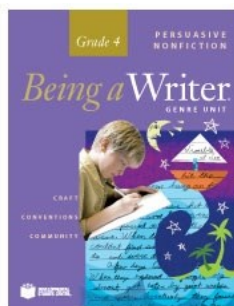
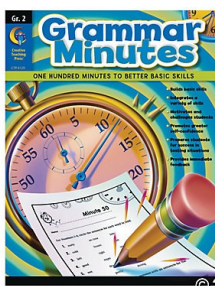
One first and second grade classroom from each building will field test the Writing Units of Study by Lucy Calkins.

The committee will be working with the support of Jane Bean-Folkes from Rowan University and formerly from Teacher's College. Jane Bean-Folkes will be assisting the district in researching options and modeling exemplary practices.

Grades 1-5

Revisions made last year to the reading and writing curriculum will continue to be in place. The following materials will also continue to be our core resources for reading and writing:

- *Literacy by Design*
- Guided reading books (K-3)
- Genre Books – (for each marking period) (Gr. 3-5)
- *StoryWorks* – Gr. 4 & 5
- *Independent reading libraries (AR Program)*
- *Expeditionary Learning Unit – Gr. 3 (Nonfiction Unit)*
- *Being a Writer (Kindergarten=Kid Writing)*
- *Fundamentals of Grammar and Conventions*
- *Grammar Minutes*
- Handwriting – Zaner Bloser – Gr.2



Foundations will remain intact with an emphasis on providing more differentiation within the classroom setting. The program will continue to be implemented in K-3.

Grades 1-5 – The **DSA** will continue to be used in both September and May/June to measure progress in encoding/orthographic knowledge regardless of the word study/word work program.

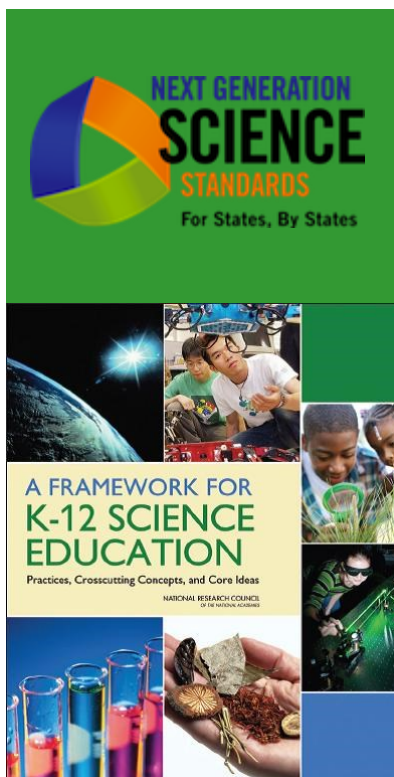
Writing Benchmarks

Writing Benchmarks will remain unchanged this year. We will be using Form A.

Reading Level Goals

Reading level goals have been established to monitor quarterly progress. There will be an emphasis on coached, accountable independent reading this year. This work will be discussed at grade level meetings with your building supervisor.





Science –

Next Generation Science Standards

K-5 will be implementing the NGSS in September of 2017. However, you are encouraged to explore the upcoming changes now. Visit the following websites to review the standards and informational videos.

www.nextgenscience.org/next-generation-science-standards

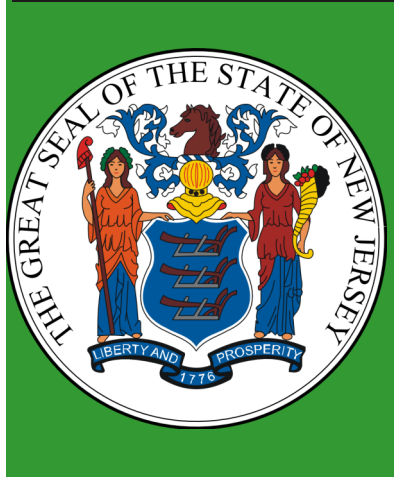
www.nextgenscience.org/new-jersey

www.teachingchannel.org/videos/next-generation-science-standards-achieve

www.teachingchannel.org/videos/crosscutting-concepts-achieve

www.teachingchannel.org/videos/disciplinary-core-ideas-achieve

Keep in mind—This year we will still be implementing the NJCCCS for science!



Social Studies Updates – SS Standards & 21st Century Skills

Please visit the revised curriculum guides on the *Elementary Resources* tab on the *Staff* pages of the website. The revised guides and a document noting the changes are available for your review. Keep in mind the changes are generally minor; however, it is essential for teachers to incorporate the new changes and adhere to



Learning Goals & Scales

Goals and Scales have been created for various academic disciplines at the elementary level:

- * Mathematics * Physical Education * Music
- * Library * Computers

We will continue this work and embed goals and scales into all of our curricula! A special thanks to the cohorts who began this work. Stay tuned for turn-key training.



Earn “Badges” for PD Hours

WTPS Ed Tech Digital Badges has created a number of badges for you to explore and pursue. Each badge encourages you to learn a new technology skill, and then to use that skill with your students. It's really easy for you to do! You don't have to wait for a workshop. You don't have to be away from your class. You can learn these when you want, at your convenience, by watching a SHORT video tutorial (most less than 4 minutes) and then trying it on your own! A description of each badge and a short screencast will be all you need to begin your personal learning journey. Visit the *Elementary Resources Tab* on the *Staff* pages of our district website to learn more!

EXAMVIEW CLOUD—New for Grades 3-5

ExamView Cloud is an intuitive, easy-to-use online platform which allows teachers to create online (or paper) assessments. Upon launch, teachers will be able to create questions with technology-enhanced items (dragging and dropping, highlighting features, importing video, etc.). ExamView Cloud has multiple assessment delivery methods, a connection to detailed feedback in viewable reports, and district-level tools for deployment and reporting. ExamView Cloud will help our learners prepare for the next generation of assessments on standardized tests by gaining experience and familiarity with common question types. Stay tuned for training and implementation.



Summer Technology Cohort

Our summer technology cohort was a huge success. A special thanks to James Cho and Kathy Kersznowski for implementing such a successful training. Also, a special thanks to Michael Otto for training the middle school teachers. We have definitely grown our tech skills, and our students are going to truly benefit. Thanks to all participants, and we look forward to offering more training throughout the year.

TECHNOLOGY

New enhancements will be coming out from our district Technology Dept. and/or the Curriculum Dept.

Stay tuned for some of the following changes:

- Office 365
- Sites (SharePoint)
- Blackboard for all students
- Student logins for grades 1-5
- Enhanced version of Safari Montage
- Insight 360 for Title I schools (Grades 4 & 5)
- iPads for every ESL student
- Additional iPads for Title I students
- Additional Laptop carts
- Short Throw Projectors
- ExamView Cloud