



Washington
West
Supervisory
Union

1673 Main Street
Suite A
Waitsfield, VT 05673

Phone: (802) 496-2272
Fax: (802) 496-6515

Brigid Scheffert, Superintendent

Michelle Baker, Business Manager

Sheila Rivers, Director of Curriculum

Donarae Dawson-Pike, Director of Student Support Services

CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE: WINTER 2012

Happy New Year! I hope this second half of the school year has gotten off to a great start for everyone. This is an update about some of the key areas of focus for our Spring and Summer work in the WWSU. We have several events and many on-going activities to be mindful of as we continue on in our school year.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

UPCOMING SUMMER COURSE/WORKSHOP OFFERINGS

Opportunities for Professional Development in the Washington West Supervisory Union beginning in Summer 2012 are listed below. To register- [click on this link for summer PD registration](#) or contact Tisa Rennau at 496-2272 ext. 121.

Each course does have maximum numbers of participants- sign up is first come, first serve

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR ALL COURSES is *May 18, 2012*

Date, Site & Time	Description	Professional Development Fee
Location: CBMS July 23-25, 2012 8:30-3:30	<u>Project-Based Learning Summer Institute</u> Learn the principals for designing, assessing and managing standards-focused projects as well as using performance assessments to judge the relevant work generated by 21 st Century learners. Through a myriad of strategies, participants will have the opportunity to plan, design, and receive peer feedback on engaging and rigorous projects using researched models and tools. Two classroom embedded follow up sessions throughout school year 2012-13: Dates TBA. Facilitated by the Dayna Laur of the Buck Institute for Education http://www.bie.org/	\$850 per person* <i>*2 graduate credits (optional) for an additional fee of \$190</i> Maximum Enrollment of 35 First Come/First Serve!
Location: Fayston Elementary School Aug13-17, 2012 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. ending at 12:30 p.m. on Friday	<u>Responsive Classroom Level 1</u> Learn to build a classroom community and use a positive approach to discipline that will help your students learn more. Topics covered in this four-and-a-half-day course include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Morning Meeting</i> • <i>Rule Creation</i> • <i>Interactive Modeling</i> • <i>Positive Teacher Language</i> • <i>Logical Consequences</i> 	\$1000 * <i>*3 Graduate Credits available for an additional fee of \$200</i> Maximum Enrollment of 30 First Come/First Serve! Continued...



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<p>Location: HUHS</p> <p>DATES: Aug 6-10, 2012 8:30-3:30</p>	<p><u>Emerging Technologies Summer Institute K-12</u></p> <p>Join us as we explore what happens in a classroom when students create, collaborate, and share through technology. How are 1-to-1 classrooms and iPads supporting best practices in the classroom? Teachers will spend a week exploring iPad apps and Web 2.0 tools focused on meeting targeted learning objectives, with a specific focus on the impact of the interactive nature of these tools on learning. Teachers can also learn more about digitizing their curriculum using Edu20.org to support easier accessibility and improved communication and collaboration. Content will be differentiated to challenge both new and experienced iPad users.</p> <p><i>Susan Hennessey, Matt Hennen, Kay Marcelle</i></p>	<p>\$675 * **</p> <p><i>*3 graduate credits (optional) for an additional fee of \$300</i></p> <p><i>**There is an additional fee of \$525 for optional technology purchase of an iPad for use in the course. Participants must purchase or bring an iPad to use in the course</i></p>
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CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT UPDATES AND IMPORTANT DATES

Common Core State Standards

WWSU has formed a Leadership Team for both Literacy and Mathematics to support staff development needs as we transition to Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Team members have attended area trainings and are working during faculty meeting time to share the learning with all staff. These Leadership teams will meet throughout the Spring and Summer to begin the curriculum development work necessary to begin a curricular shift to teaching to the CCSS. Resources and important links are posted on the WWSU website's curriculum page for support with the facilitation of the staff development trainings. Our Professional Development offerings on ERD days during the 2012-13 school year will also begin to address the significant shifts needed to support this transition process.

Local Assessment Expectations

Why do we collect local assessment information?

There are many reasons why it is important to collect common assessment information about our WWSU students. Without this additional data our only information about student performance is the NECAP assessments. As you know, NECAP only assesses some content areas, some grade levels and is given only once per year. NECAP can be valuable for looking at our overall ***school*** performance in a summative way, but it does not provide **student level information** to support a true understanding about individual student achievement and growth in an on-going way.

Local assessments:

- Provide clear benchmark targets aligned with local curriculum expectations
- Inform teaching and learning
- Provide accountability for curriculum implementation and student achievement in all content areas
- Provide a basis for identifying Professional Development and Curriculum Development Needs



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Spring 2012 Mathematics Local Assessment Expectations

PNOA Grades K-2

Full implementation with established benchmarks for Fall and Spring. Please check VCAT for the most updated version of the assessment prior to administration.

March 23-PNOA Leadership Team Members Only 8:00-12:00 Prepare for the Spring PNOA administration (snow date March 30)

May 1-25, 2011: Spring Testing Window: **All Data into VCAT by June 8**

EOY Assessments for grades 3-8

All schools will be giving Form 1 of this assessment which is downloadable from VCAT.

May 1-25, 2011: Spring Testing Window: **All Data into VCAT by June 8**

CMP Unit Assessments

Grade 6- New BENCHMARK tasks have been shared with all 6th grade teachers. Data related to the following units should now be recorded in VCAT. Benchmark tasks have been created for the following units:

- **Bits and Pieces 1**
- **Bits and Pieces 2**
- **Variables and Patterns**
- **Bits and Pieces 3**
- **Data about Us**

A suggested pacing guide was shared with each 6th grade teacher this Fall with the Unit changes highlighted. Those changes include moving Prime Time to Grade 5, moving Variables and Patterns to Grade 6, and condensing the content from the second investigation from How Likely Is It? into the Bits and Pieces 2 following the second investigation from that unit. This pacing guide is available on the WWSU webpage under the curriculum tab.

Grade 7 and 8

No formal data collection for End Of Unit assessments will occur this year due to our current focus on the Best Practices Course. Later this spring (last two ERD sessions) time may allow development work of Benchmark Tasks similar to the 6th grade work to occur.

High School Courses

Development work has occurred within the algebra and geometry courses for both the midterms and finals. Student data will be collected for these assessments in VCAT again this year. Additional development work will occur within departments throughout the year.

K-8 Science Curriculum Implementation Expectations

Please regularly record all student scores from these unit assessments in VCAT

WWSU K-8 Science Unit Summary: Kindergarten- Sorting/Classifying (Matter/Rocks), Weather, Senses (no formal assessment),

Classification of Plants/Animals (no formal assessment) If you have student work samples from the classification unit please send them to Central Office for further development work on this unit.

Fayston · Harwood Union · Moretown · Waitsfield · Warren · Waterbury-Duxbury



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Grades 1/2- Earth and Sky, Force and Motion, Human Body (no formal assessment), Life Cycles, Magnets, Matter, Needs of Living Things, Sound

Grades 3/4- Solar System, Electricity and Magnetism, Geology (Erosion), Human Body (no formal assessment), Interdependence, Life Cycles, Properties/States of Matter

Grades 5/6- Cells, Ecosystems, Force and Motion, Geology, Human Body, Matter/Physical and Chemical Change, Solar System

Grades 7/8- Comparing Plant and Animal Cells, Density, Ecosystems/Interdependence of Organisms, Force and Motion, Properties of Matter, *and the following topics with no formal assessments:* Classification, Electricity and Magnetism, Genetics/Evolution, Light, Microbiology, Natural Resources, Weather

OTHER INITIATIVES IN THE WWSU

Service Learning Projects

Service Learning projects in many of the WWSU schools are underway. All schools agreed to support the increased implementation of Service Learning in our schools by developing a school wide action plan to assure that all students experience a high-quality service learning project at least once during their Elementary, Middle and High School career. Professional development has been provided to increase understanding of the component parts of the KIDS consortium model of Service Learning. There are many high quality projects underway in our WWSU schools this year including~

Moretown:

Developing *Geocaches* to house historical contexts in a digital format created by students that will be located throughout the Moretown community.

Harwood Middle School:

Partnering with Waterbury LEAP around energy units.

Waitsfield Elementary:

Creating videos to be aired on channel 44 (local access television) through funding received by a VEA grant for the project.

Fayston Elementary:

Participation in the Empty Bowls program; a project to help fight hunger in the community.

TBPS:

Students are tackling issues related to the noise level in the cafeteria. Another group will be working on projects related to the Irene Flood Relief and school volunteers.

And more~

We hope to be able to celebrate these projects and many more at the end of the school year!