



Curriculum & Instruction | Welcome Fall



Welcome to the fall edition of Curriculum Connections. It has been a busy fall for everyone as we continue our preparations for implementing the Common Core and Essential Standards for 2012-2013.

Common Core and More

I want to compliment our staff for their very focused efforts on moving us toward implementation. We have three tiers of staff support: the Central Office Common Core and More team (Vickie Smith, Steven Weber, Lisa Napp, Ryan Miller and Patricia Harris), the multi-member school level teams who have conducted training for their own buildings in August and October, and our teacher leaders who are doing the heavy lifting in creating K-12 curriculum maps for all of the new standards.

The Orange County Common Core and More district team was recently selected, along with Union County and Ashe County, to present to a group of over 400 educators at a state conference hosted by the National Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), the Chief Council of State Officers, the North Carolina ASCD, and NC Department of Public Instruction to share our implementation guidelines. We wowed the crowd with a video produced by Ryan Miller and created by the Common Core and More team which provided a visual roadmap of all of our implementation efforts. This video, which features many of our staff, will soon be posted on our website under the “Common Core and More” icon. Please check it out.

“Whole-to-Part” News

On October 31st, Dr. Karen Erickson and Vickie Smith presented to the Joint Legislative Educational Oversight Committee (JLEOC) of the 2011 General Assembly on our district’s “Whole-to-Part” reading initiative. This committee has been charged with studying literacy to develop a comprehensive plan to address “implementation of a third grade literacy policy”. Our district was the only school district asked to present on our very successful Whole-to-Part literacy initiative. Thanks to Ms. Smith and Dr. Erickson for informing this committee of our efforts to make sure that the children in Orange County can read and read well!

The “Creators” of Whole-to-Part Visit Orange County Schools

On October 4th, Dr. James and Patricia Cunningham (the creators of the Whole-to-Part reading initiative) visited our school district at A.L. Stanback Middle School to see Whole-to-Part in action. Joyce Gilbert, A.L. Stanback Middle School literacy coach, orchestrated a great visit for them. Dr. Karen Erickson, Vickie Smith, Dr. Lisa Napp, Dr. Gloria Jones and myself accompanied the Cunninghams as they visited Whole-to-Part groups that morning. They were very impressed with A.L. Stanback’s Whole-to-Part organization structure as well as the 2-year testing data that shows that Whole-to-Part makes a difference for students.

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Technology Tidbits

Building 21st century schools with free, familiar, easy-to-maintain Google Apps.

It was another busy summer for the technology department. Most of the computers in the schools were reimaged, wireless access devices were upgraded, and all Smart projectors in the schools were cleaned (to extend bulb life). The email archiving system was upgraded to allow the archiving of gmail, bandwidth was increased at all locations and computers in classrooms at several elementary schools were upgraded. The annual summer technology conference “Catch the Wave” took place and the district rolled out Google education and Google mail.

In August, all media specialists in the district received Nooks and were trained on how to download and share ebooks. As more and more students and staff members have mobile devices, downloading and sharing ebooks is a direction that will become an important feature of our media centers.



All elementary and middle schools have a cart with 32 iPods and MacBooks. Students not only use a wide variety of educational apps for their ipods but the district is also downloading ebooks for student reading on the ipods. Students are digital natives who love using the ipods with their lessons. With over 35,000 educational apps available teachers can easily find an app for any lesson. Already, lessons from foreign language lessons to poetry are being used around the district.



Principals and district administrators will be receiving the Lenovo Thinkpad1838. The Thinkpads will help administrators complete teacher evaluations and will allow them to video tape or take digital pictures of classroom and after school activities. They will also give administrators the option to send and receive emails as long as they have a wireless connection. Having 21st century ready students means making sure our administrators are also using 21st century tools.



A major role of the technology department is providing staff development for all the new digital devices and software programs. In addition to the summer technology conference, Ryan Miller, Instructional Technology Coordinator for the district, has put together over 26 technology staff development offerings for teachers, administrators and classified staff to take place over the course of the 2011-2012 school year. Workshops include: Google documents, Google spreadsheets, Google Sites (web pages), Google forms, Google calendar, Google email, Google Presentation (Powerpoint), Voicethread, SAS Curriculum Pathways, Facebook, iPods, student response systems, Smart Notebook and ePals.



Angie Veitch,
Director of Media & Technology

Accountability and Testing

Field Testing

The Accountability and Testing Office for Orange County Schools started off the school year at a fast pace. We have been informed that we will be conducting multiple field tests this year in anticipation of the new Common Core Curriculum. This fall during the month of November, Cedar Ridge High School and Partnership Academy will be giving the English II field tests to all students presently enrolled in English II. Orange High School will be administering the Biology field test to all students presently enrolled in Biology.

College and Career Readiness Assessment with the ACT

We have also been informed that North Carolina Department of Public Instruction has been able to fund the ACT for all 11th grade students. The ACT is a curriculum-based educational and career planning tool that assesses the mastery of state and college readiness standards. It motivates students to perform to their best ability and often results in increased college enrollment, especially for underrepresented students. Test scores reflect what students have learned throughout high school and provide colleges and universities with excellent information for recruiting, advising, placement, and retention. The ACT is comprised of 5 assessments: English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and Writing. The test takes approximately 4 hours to complete. We will be administering the ACT to all 11th grade students at Orange High, Cedar Ridge High, and Partnership Academy on March 6, 2012. This will be an online assessment.



PLAN – a diagnostic measure for College and Career Readiness

We will also be giving the PLAN assessment to all 10th grade students at Orange High, Cedar Ridge High, and Partnership Academy during the weeks of December 5th through December 16th, 2011. The PLAN serves as the

midpoint measure of academic progress in ACT's College and Career Readiness System, a series of assessments that identify whether students are prepared for success in college and beyond. The PLAN provides students with an early indication of how their educational progress relates to their post-high school educational and career plans. PLAN helps students make adjustments to their coursework to ensure they are prepared for what they want to do next and also assists teachers in understanding where gaps exist in the curriculum. PLAN scores can be used by both students and teachers to analyze the relationship between instruction and academic skill development.

WorkKeys – a CTE measure for College and Career Readiness

WorkKeys is the final school-wide assessment that we will be giving this year. It will occur in February 2012. It is an assessment of Reading, Math and locating information and will be given to all seniors who are CTE Concentrators with at least 1 Level II credit.



End-of-Course Changes

In addition to those assessments, we will also be administering EOC's to all present Algebra I, English I, and Biology students in January. The number of EOC's has decreased this year due to the elimination of Algebra II, Civics & Economics, US History, and Physical Science. We eliminated the Geometry EOC last year. This is all in preparation for the institution of the new Common Core Standards which will be in effect next year.

As you can see, the Accountability and Testing office has been quite busy. We continue to analyze all data from assessments, discipline, graduation rates, dropout data, and teacher effectiveness reports. All principals have been apprised of their results on last year's EOG's and EOC's, as well as their data on other pertinent areas.



Mary Calhoun, Director of Accountability & Testing

Common Core

College and Career Readiness Implementing the Common Core and Essential Standards

Orange County Schools is committed to preparing each student to graduate college and career ready. In 2010, the North Carolina State Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards. These standards define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education careers so that they will graduate high school able to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs. The new standards will be implemented in every K-12 school in North Carolina beginning in 2012-2013. Families and community members can learn more about the new standards by visiting the Orange County Schools website at: http://www.orange.k12.nc.us/academic_dept_pages/C_and_I_cc_parents.html

Throughout the school year, teachers and administrators will review the new standards, design curriculum plans, align their course outcomes with the new goals, and plan with teachers from across the school district. On a recent teacher workday, high school teachers from Cedar Ridge High School, Orange High School, and Partnership Academy met to collaborate and plan for the implementation of the Common Core State Standards. Teacher teams also meet after school hours to share ideas and develop district plans to support all students. Through discussion boards, Skype, email, and Google Docs, classroom teachers are able to collaborate and plan with their colleagues from other schools. Vertical team meetings are also taking place throughout the school year between elementary and middle school teachers and middle school and high school teachers.

College and Career Readiness does not occur at a specific time or on the last day of a student's senior year. All K-12 teachers and administrators in Orange County Schools are working to prepare students for life after high school. Elementary schools are hosting college awareness days, middle schools are visiting college campuses and inviting guest speakers from colleges and universities, and high schools are speaking with students about interview skills, how to navigate the College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) website, and providing students with multiple opportunities to earn career certification.



The topic of College and Career Readiness will be discussed with students and families throughout the school year as new opportunities are made available. The following online resources provide information on the topic of College and Career Readiness. We look forward to implementing the new standards and supporting every student!

Resources:

<http://www.pta.org/4446.htm>

National Parent Teachers Association (PTA)

Parents' Guide to Common Core State Standards

<http://www.ncpta.org/parent/CommonCoreStandards.html>

North Carolina Parent Teachers Association (PTA)

Parents' Guide to Common Core State Standards

http://twitter.com/#!/OCS_Secondary

Orange County Schools

Office of Secondary Instruction

Hundreds of College and Career Ready Resources for Students and Families

Note: 46 states including North Carolina have adopted the Common Core State Standards. To view an interactive map of which states have adopted and not adopted the Common Core State Standards, visit <http://www.corestandards.org/in-the-states>.



Steven Weber,
Director of Secondary Instruction

Positive Action

(New evidenced-based program used by Triumph Academy and Orange County Schools PRC 29 Behavior Interventionists:

Matthew Hendricks and Michelle Gagnon)

The Positive Action (PA) program is a national, evidence-based program that focuses on improving youth academics, behavior, and character. The program was developed by Carl Gerber Allred, Ph.D., of Positive Action Inc. PA uses an audience-appropriate, curriculum-based approach to effectively increase positive behaviors and decrease negative ones. PA relies on intrinsic motivation for developing and maintaining positive behavioral patterns and teaches the skills for learning and motivation for achieving success and happiness for everyone. The universal premise, that you feel good about yourself when you do positive actions and there is always a positive way to do everything, is represented by the self-reinforcing "Thoughts-Actions-Feelings" Circle: Positive thoughts lead to positive actions, positive actions lead to positive feelings about oneself, and positive feelings lead to more positive thoughts.

The PA program portfolio features interactive, ready-to-use kits that contain 15-and 20-minutes of scripted, user friendly lessons for grades K-12 drug education, conflict resolution, climate development, counselors, families, and communities. PA program materials are easy to use. Triumph Academy Day Treatment staff were trained in Positive Action techniques in 2010. Orange County Schools Behavior Interventionist will be trained during the month of November and will receive information specific to their roles in meeting the goals of the student, school, and the district.



Sheila VanHook McDonald
Positive Behavior Support Specialist

Whole to Part

Dr. Karen Erickson and Vickie Smith were invited to present to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee (JLEOC) on October 31st to share information about Orange County School's literacy program and the reading interventions that are in place for grades K-3. In particular, the JLEOC wants recommendations for NC's 3rd grade reading policy. Karen and Vickie presented along with 3 other people/organizations: SERVE Center, University of North Carolina at Greensboro on Promotion Policy; Dr. Rebecca Garland with NCDPI on NC's Statewide Literacy Initiatives and Social Promotion Policy; and Dr. Steven Amendum, NCSU Assistant Professor, on K-3 Teacher Preparation in Literacy Assessment and Teaching. Karen and Vickie's presentation was listed on the agenda as "Example of Evidence-Based Local Literacy Initiative for Struggling Readers."



Registering for Workshops and Tracking CEU Credits: How Orange County Schools is "Going Green"



Starting this school year, teachers are using OCSTORM---*Orange County Schools Online Registration Manager*--to register and evaluate all workshops offered in Orange County Schools. This online management system allows the district to "go green" and eliminate the reams of paper that were necessary to submit workshop proposals,

track attendance, evaluate workshops, and create certificates of credit. Staff can access OCSTORM on our district website.



Vickie Smith,
Director of Literacy and Professional Development

AIG & ESL



AIG Highlights in Our Schools

Orange County schools began the 2011/2012 school year with two of our AIG teachers, Amy Richardson and Kristen Euliss, out on maternity leave. We look forward to them returning in November.

The district has been fortunate to have had two wonderful subs to begin the year. We are grateful to them! Christine Lutz has been terrific at New Hope Elementary and at Gravelly Hill; Anglea Sitton has also done a fabulous job with our students.

Judy Thibodeaux is returning to the job of AIG Specialist this year at C. W. Stanford. She has worked in Orange County Schools for twelve years, first as the AIG resource teacher at C. W. Stanford for nine years, and then she became a 6th grade classroom ELA instructor for three years.

Mrs. Thibodeaux is a 2002-2003 recipient of the Kenan Fellowship for Leadership and Curriculum Development, sponsored by N.C. State University and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. As a Kenan Fellow, she worked with Dr. Chris Brown, a biologist with NASA, to design and create a curriculum for teachers involving extremophile life forms on earth that might thrive in an alien environment, such as those we find throughout our solar system.

Prior to coming to Orange County Schools, Mrs. Thibodeaux served as an AIG Resource Teacher in Craven County Schools in New Bern, North

Carolina, where she worked for twelve years. She travelled to four different schools every week as an elementary AIG teacher for seven years, and then served as a full time middle school AIG teacher at Havelock Middle School in Havelock.

She is originally from Louisiana, where she graduated from Louisiana Tech University with a Masters Degree in Gifted Education. Mrs. Thibodeaux worked as an AIG Specialist in Louisiana for fourteen years before coming to North Carolina.

She and her husband, Stan Thibodeaux, are the parents of two daughters: Mrs. Erin Stoker, counselor at Eastern Alamance High School, and Dr. Julie Radloff, Family Practice physician in Asheville, NC.

C. W. Stanford Middle School

Seventh grade AIG students in Mrs. Maynard's and Mrs. Livingston's ELA classes are currently working on a project involving standard debate. The students have studied the different parts of a standard debate, and are currently holding practice debates on current relevant topics that they have researched. These topics include offshore oil drilling, expansion of the U.S. space program, the activation of new laws to protect animals' rights, and replacing the electoral system of selecting the U. S. President with a direct popular vote.

Once the students have mastered the techniques of debate, we will read a story from literature that involves some sort of crime. After a brief study of trial debate, we will use our skills to conduct a mock trial, which we will conduct in the courtroom in downtown Hillsborough.

Sixth grade AIG ELA classes are busy reading five short stories by authors who are representative of the Romantic Movement in literature: Washington Irving, Edgar Allen Poe, Guy de Maupassant, W.W. Jacobs, and Mark Twain. Students are researching the biographies of these authors to place them in the proper perspectives historically on a timeline, and are identifying the major events in history during the time that the author was writing his stories to see what part the events might have played in the themes of the literature. On November 9, the students will travel to Raleigh to see five particular stories brought to life as drama on the theater stage.

Through this study, students are gaining insights as to how fiction in literature came to be, how it depicts historical themes, and how it has emerged into its current forms.

Cameron Park Elementary School

John Bemis

The new AIG teacher at Cameron Park is John Bemis. John is very glad to be back at Cameron Park as the AIG resource teacher after being out of the classroom for four years. During his absence, he was fortunate to have the opportunity to be at home with his daughter for her first four years and to work on building his writing career. Currently, he has three novels for young readers (ages 9 and up). His first novel, *The Nine Pound Hammer*, is nominated for this year's North Carolina Children's Book Award. What a thrill! John is excited to be back with his colleagues at Cameron Park and working with his wonderful and talented students. They inspire him!

What is Renzulli Learning?

Renzulli Learning is an online learning tool that connects students with safe, dynamic, exciting, and fun activities. Based on over 30 years of educational research, Renzulli Learning connects students with fun and proven learning tools.

The Renzulli Learning Profile identifies each child's unique abilities, interest areas, learning styles, and expression styles.

The system differentiates instruction for each student by matching activities to the unique answers of each child's learning profile.

Teachers can send students engaging activities, assignments, and projects that support the district curriculum.

Students can communicate virtually and work collaboratively on assignments in the system. Students have access twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Students may access from school, home or the public library.

Parents can sign up for free parent access. They can view their child's profile, work, sites visited, assignments, and much more.

Please see the OCS website for additional information.



Changes in ESL Personnel for 2011/2012 School Year.

A.L. Stanback Middle School

Mary Dunson

In previous years, Mary has been the ESL teacher at New Hope Elementary. Mary is now the ESL/ELA teacher at A.L. Stanback Middle School. She graduated with a B.A. in English and a B.S. in Secondary Education from Penn State University. She attended both Duke and N.C. State for her ESL licensure. She has a Master's in Literacy and K-12 Reading Specialist licensure from UNC-Chapel Hill. She also has her National Board Certification in English as a New Language. She has two sons, Simon, 13 and Sam, 15.

A.L. Stanback Middle School

Michelle Siegling

Michelle is originally from Edison, NJ. She moved to NC three years ago and is so excited to be working as the new ESL tutor at AL Stanback! Michelle's previous teaching experience included five years working as a high school Spanish teacher, most recently in Chatham County. She is looking forward to using her Spanish in an outreach capacity as she helps her students become more proficient in the English language.

C.W. Stanford Middle School

Jessica Nagy

Jessica is the new French/ESL teacher at C.W. Stanford Middle School. She is originally from Charleston, SC where she worked primarily as a French teacher for six years. She has worked with all ages from kindergartners to adults, and middle school is absolutely her favorite age group. Jessica is looking forward to getting to know her new community!

New Hope Elementary School

Ernest "Tito" Craige

Tito comes to New Hope Elementary from Orange High School. He began teaching English in Sonora, Mexico, in the 1970s and has taught ESL and other subjects in three countries. In addition to teaching, he was the Latin American AIDS Coordinator for Family Health International and a journalist in the Philippines. His wife and he have four children, all of whom enjoy horseback riding and swimming. He looks forward to helping elementary students write a collection of stories about their community.

New Hope Elementary School

Michelle Bolion

Michelle is not only new to Hillsborough, but this is her first year residing in North Carolina. Michelle lived in Avon, CT before completing her Masters degree at the University of Maryland. Michelle is proficient in French and Italian as well as Spanish.

Orange High School

Michelle Williams

Michelle comes to us from Boulder, Colorado, where she worked as an educator and ESL professional for eight years. With a degree in both Spanish and English and training in ESL/EFL, Michelle has had the pleasure of teaching English to students both here in the US and abroad. She is enthusiastic about being a member of the Orange High School faculty and says that her favorite thing about teaching is her students, who teach her something new every day.

AIG & ESL

ESL Highlights in Our Schools


***A.L. Stanback Middle School
Hispanic Outreach Night***

Mary Dunson and Michelle Siegling

On Tuesday, October 25, the A.L. Stanback Middle School staff hosted an Hispanic Outreach Night from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Mary Dunson, ESL/ELA teacher, did a PowerPoint presentation, introduced staff, outlined the program requirements and offered information about other points of interest, such as attendance and academic support. Sweet Flake, guidance counselor, was available to answer questions about scheduling and student support and Wanda Rittenhouse, district ESL Specialist, and Michelle Siegling, part-time ESL teacher, served as interpreters for families in need of language assistance. Parents had the opportunity to sit down with Mary and Michelle and review their children's ELL plans in depth. Overall, the program was a big success. We look forward working closely with all of our ESL families this year!

***Grady Brown Elementary
School***

Margaret Noble

At Grady A. Brown Elementary School, the Hispanic students, their families, and their relatives celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with an after school Fiesta! A special craft called the "Ojos de Dios" was taught by their art teacher and quickly learned by all the participants! There was a lot of team work, laughter, and great designs as this project was completed! The social worker and translator shared important information on attendance and absences. The ESL students had been studying about their culture and showed a wonderful video about all they had learned! The highlight of the celebration was when the 70 attendees gathered outside around a Sponge Bob piñata! Many little brothers and sisters, as well as students, really whacked Sponge Bob and they saw him merrily spin around! Finally a fourth grader smacked the piñata, broke it open, and over 700 pieces of candy went flying everywhere! What a scramble it was to get all the candy and what big smiles on all the faces! We were thrilled to have such a fun filled celebration and everyone went home with happy memories and many experiences to share with others!

***Gravelly Hill Middle School and
C.W. Stanford Middle School***

Ms. Bible and Ms. Nagy

The ESL students at C.W. Stanford and Gravelly Hill are going to the Ackland Art Museum at the University of North Carolina! The trip will include a private tour of the museum's collections and three interactive stations during which our students will write poetry, critique works of art, and compare and contrast different genres of art. The group will also take a walk around UNC's campus and eat in the school cafeteria.

Orange High School

Michelle Williams

Orange High School's International Club's Piñata Bash a Big Hit Orange High School's International Club, comprised almost entirely of current and former ESL students, proudly announces the success of their Piñata Fundraiser to benefit St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Student leaders on this team worked hard to create a booth at Orange High's recent Ag Day, selling Mexican and American treats as well as swings at the club's piñatas, which went for \$1 each and drew customers from all over the school. Club president, Bricia Canalez Dias, wore a wide grin as she shared, "Our club is so pleased to be able to help the children at St. Jude's, and we had a great time doing it." With the group giving more than \$160 to the hospital, club members agree that the Piñata Bash was a knockout.

Advancement Via Individual Determination

This year, the middle schools have at hand a resource entitled AVID-Weekly. This resource marks the continuation of AVID preparing students for college readiness. The AVIDWeekly contains interesting news articles from around the U.S. These articles are not only an interesting read, but they provide the teacher with explicit instructions for introducing a Critical Reading strategy. The aim is to improve the literacy of students by providing teachers across the disciplines with the practices they need to teach students effective reading skills. Even though many of our students are excellent readers, they lack those critical reading skills that will help them read various types of text. These strategies include, but are not limited to, Marking the Text and Writing in the Margins. In addition, these articles can lead to great discussions and tantalizing debates.



Spotlight on AVID Program Teacher

A. L. Stanback Middle School

Melissa Ronches

This year, we introduced the AVID club to our Friday offering of clubs. Any student was invited to sign up for either the Fall or Spring semester section and we are pleased to welcome several new students to the AVID experience. So far, students have learned to write Cornell notes, to organize their binders with sections for each subject and how to use a homework folder. Also, students are learning why their binders should remain neat. Students look forward to joining the AVID students on their college field trips. Finally, they have had the chance to practice their public speaking skills with an impromptu presentation where they had one minute to speak on a random topic, such as “A Day at the Zoo.”

In the AVID elective class, students focused on developing collaborative learning teams and building their AVID “family”. Students decided on the group norms they should follow when working together, along with assigning responsibilities to each member of their team. These skills are routinely used during their weekly tutorial sessions and classroom projects, which have led to very successful learning experiences. This was demonstrated by one project in particular, where students were asked to research and create a flyer using Microsoft Publisher to highlight the cultural differences between Spanish speaking countries. Students realized that effective and efficient team work can bring about amazing results. Each flyer not only met all the technical requirements but also demonstrated a sophisticated level of creativity.



Ann Winer,
AVID, AIG & ESL Coordinator



Decades of College Dreams

Elementary Education

Greetings! I'd like to introduce myself to you. My name is Dr. Lisa Napp and on June 13th, I started a new position with Orange County Schools as Director of Elementary Education and Title I Services. Previously I served as principal of Efland-Cheeks Elementary School. I am excited to continue my work with Orange County Schools in my new role.

New Standards:

This is a busy time for our district. While administrators and teachers continue to design and plan quality instruction in site based Professional Learning Communities, teacher leader teams are studying and creating curriculum documents in preparation for the state's transition to the Common Core and North Carolina Essentials beginning in the 2012-2013 school year. Please visit the Orange County Schools web page designed by our district Common Core and More planning team and spend time reading about the new national and state standards and how the new curriculum builds grade level to grade level and increases in rigor and relevance to prepare all students to be college and career ready upon high school graduation.

Assessing Math Concepts (AMC):

Three years ago, Orange County Schools partnered with Dr. Karen Erickson from the Center for Literacy and Disabilities at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine to implement Whole To Part, a reading intervention. The intervention has been extremely successful helping students strengthen their reading skills by identifying a student's greatest area of need and delivering purposeful strategies to support student growth in their greatest area of need. This model for intervention has inspired the district to begin to develop a math intervention under the guidance of Dr. Susan Friel and Ms. Kay Ringer. Lead teachers from Efland-Cheeks Elementary school, Kim McColman, Jennifer Parker, and Kristin Bedell, are helping all second and third grade teachers learn and implement Assessing Math Concepts (AMC) to help all students grow by strengthening their number fluency and awareness of how numbers work. We look forward to great student growth as our district adopted program of study, Math Expressions, works in tandem with AMC assessments and strategies to improve students' ability to maneuver math concepts with complete knowledge.

FLAP Grant:

Orange County Schools was awarded a FLAP grant two years ago. The Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) is one of the largest federal sources of funding for foreign language programs in U.S. schools. According to the Department of Education, FLAP "provides grants to establish, improve, or expand innovative foreign language programs for elementary and secondary school students. In awarding grants under this program, the secretary of education supports projects that: (a) show the promise of being continued beyond their project period and (b) demonstrate approaches that can be disseminated and duplicated by other LEAs." The FLAP grant funds Orange County Schools' elementary Spanish teachers. Señor, Batson, the Spanish teacher at Central Elementary School, and his 4th grade students are in their second year of skypping with their "sister" school in Lima, Peru. Students from both classrooms research, write, and present information about their cultures and daily lives through technology. Señor Batson's goal is that the students will continue this partnership all the way through their 5th grade year. The experience has given students a rich format for cross cultural understanding as well as developed a context for learning a second language. Our Spanish teachers meet monthly to share their best practices with each other and to develop innovative ways of integrating technology into second language classroom experiences.

Welcome:

Three elementary schools have new principals. Please welcome the talents of Myron Wilson to Central Elementary, Crystal Scillitani to Efland-Cheeks Elementary, and Jeffrey Rachlin to New Hope Elementary. We are delighted that they choose to share their expertise and passion for providing excellent educational settings and programs of study for children with the students of Orange County Schools.



Dr. Lisa Napp,
Director of Elementary Education and Title I Services

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Find out more about Career and Technical Education at http://www.orange.k12.nc.us/academic_dept_pages/cte.html

“Race to the Top!” Is our theme for 2011-2012.

Our goals for the year:

- Analyze our end of course data in order to develop strategies to improve
- Determine complete CTE pathways for our students including the new 2012-2013 NC Standard Course of Study
- Market our areas and the community college articulation possibilities
- Prepare for our new courses for 2012-2013
- Prepare for College and Career Ready Promise which will give students an opportunity to earn community college credit and recognized certifications.

Like all other curriculums, CTE is implementing a new standard course of study, plus aligning our curriculum to literacy and math. We will begin an entrepreneurship course at OHS and a marketing management course at CRHS which will involve entrepreneurship. To encourage students to begin to think about entrepreneurship, we will have Entrepreneurship Day at each middle school for 8th graders. NC Real will work with our students on how to prepare a business plan, plus students will develop a commercial for their business. Many of our high school student organizations already perform small business functions such as Foods, Construction, and Furniture Making.

We are still encouraging students to investigate Biotechnology. Cedar Ridge High School is offering an Intro to Biotechnology course in the spring.



A webinar hosted by Dr. Denise Morton and Patricia Harris (via the Community College System) showed how Orange County Schools has moved forward in Biotechnology even though we still have goals to accomplish. Check it out at <http://www.ncbionetwork.org/bioforum-events/breakthrough-biotechnology-orange-county-schools>.



Last year, we had over 50 students to earn some type of certification. We will continue to offer courses which include the opportunity to earn possible certification.

- Microsoft IT will expand certifications to Excel and Access. We already have certifications for Word, PowerPoint, and Publisher. Middle schools will continue business courses through modules with a possible certification to prepare students for our Microsoft IT Academy.
- We have our first class of SAS Programming I and will offer SAS Programming II in 2012-2013 which prepare students for a SAS certification.
- Our furniture making courses require students to take the Career Safe OSHA 10-hour certification and, for 2012-2013, certifications through the Woodlinks National Organization.



- Computer engineering certifications are still available for our students.
- Servsafe certification is offered in our foods classes.
- Certified Nursing Assistant certification is offered

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Hands for Habitat

Hands for Habitat: Check us out at http://www.orange.k12.nc.us/academic_dept_pages/cte_hands_for_habitat.html

We are in our third year of our partnership with Orange County Habitat and second year of partnership with Sports Endeavors. Sports Endeavors, even though they usually support Habitat every other year, decided to work with us for another year. They once again are donating the \$50,000 partnership money for Habitat so Orange County Schools can once again build a home in Fairview Community. Please get your students involved in this very worthy cause and service learning project. All grade levels are welcomed! Contact Patricia Harris at patricia.harris@orange.k12.nc.us.



We have had several opportunities over the past three years to promote the program through various media outlets. One of our Orange High Construction students spoke on WCHL about the project, and Tammy Russell, a Hillsborough Elementary teacher, will be presenting at a national conference. Below you will find an article written by a UNC-CH student, Dorothy Irwin, who tells our story and has interviewed Mat Hamlett, the Construction teacher in charge of the project.

Newsarticle:

Students in Orange County Schools are building a house with Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, and they're taking their experiences back to the classroom.

In Mat Hamlett's three construction classes at Orange High School, students get hands-on experience working on a house during their 90-minute class periods every day.

This is the district's third Hands for Habitat project, and Hamlett said he has never heard of anything like this partnership in the United States.

"When we first started this project, we were told by the local Habitat people that this was the only project in the world that's done this way," Hamlett said.

Students do the most of the work themselves, including the framing, siding, interior trim and roofing. By the end of the year, about 80 construction students will have worked on the project, which allows them to earn a construction certification included in the curriculum, in addition to hands on experience, he said.

Though students take a bus to work on site during the school day, Hands for Habitat is more than a construction project. It is an extensive service learning partnership with Habitat that reaches across subjects and grade levels, said Sadie Vo, Youth Programs and Faith Relations director for Habitat for Humanity of Orange County.

Hands for Habitat is a three-part collaboration involving fundraising, a Habitat curriculum, and the actual construction, Hamlett said.

This project is infused in all areas of school. Issues such as affordable housing are incorporated into the curriculum, which is provided by the Habitat International Youth Program. For math classes studying dimensions, for example, finding the area and perimeter of a habitat home opens a door to talk about Habitat for Humanity and the issues involved, Vo said.

"There are connections all over the place, and Habitat International provides the great curriculum," she said.

Books that focus on poverty and related issues are chosen for literacy and English classes. Habitat is a green-certified affiliate, so ecology and environmental science students learn about the environmental aspects of the project, Vo said.

Though Orange High is the only school with the construction program, students at Cedar Ridge High School also contribute. Last year, culinary classes made gingerbread houses to sell as a fundraiser. A furniture class made a bookcase for the family's children, said Patricia Harris, who runs the district's Career and Technical Education programs.

Elementary and middle school students are also able to get involved in hands-on ways. They take field trips to see the house, help with fundraising, participate in advocacy, and occasionally help with gardening and landscaping projects, Harris said. High school students and guest speakers from Habitat present to younger students to let them know what the project is all about, she said.

Upon starting this project, students in Orange County realized that many students don't know about poverty, so they started an advocacy letter-writing campaign.

"This is actually kind of a remarkable and one of a kind program. There are plenty of youth programs that work with Habitat for Humanity, but not directly with the schools," Vo said.

This unique partnership has been successful so far, according to those involved.

"Habitat for Humanity approached the district because it found out we have a construction program at our high school, we moved forward with it, and it's turned out to be a great partnership and collaboration," Harris said.





The project takes the entire school year, since the students mostly work during the school day.

“That’s one way Habitat has been really willing to work with us, because usually a Habitat house doesn’t take that long,” Harris said.

This is approximately the 40th house Habitat for Humanity has built in Hillsborough’s Fairview Community. Since it started building in the community, the crime rate has consistently dropped, Hamlett said.

“It’s really made a difference in that community,” he said.

This year, the project started the first week of September after the kick off celebration on September 9. Construction students, the family that will receive the house, and sponsors attended the celebration.

The house is being built for Brenda DeMent and Markise Poteat and their 18-month-old son. DeMent and Markise both graduated from Orange County high schools, Harris said.

High school Habitat clubs and elementary and middle school teachers organize fundraisers for the project. A large share of the cost is contributed by partners such as Sports Endeavors.

While the Habitat partnership is new for the district, Orange High has been building houses independently since 1966, Hamlett said. Until about 10 years ago, the construction classes built houses in the community, but land prices and restrictions recently complicated the projects. Hamlett said they started building houses on the school campus beside the gym, and the houses were auctioned off and moved once completed.

“So the Habitat people and our people got together, and it’s been a really good collaboration,” he said.

Orange County Schools was an honorable mention recipient of the 2011 American School Board Journal’s Magna Awards for its Hands for Habitat program, said Donna Coffey, chair of the School Board.

“It seems to have been successful for everybody, not just the family that’s receiving the house, but also for our partners, as well as our students. I think our students are probably some of the biggest winners because they get the opportunity to have hands on experience in construction and they get to actually help somebody and get the gratification that comes along with that,” Coffey said.

Hamlett said he wants President Barack Obama to visit to raise national attention to the success of this project.

“I hope very soon that things like this can sprout up in other habitat chapters across the country,” he said.

Written by Dorothy Irwin, UNC-Chapel Hill Journalism Student

http://www.orange.k12.nc.us/academic_dept_pages/cte_hands_for_habitat.html



Patricia Harris,
Director of Career & Technical Education

CTE . . .Continued from page 11

CTE News Briefs

- OHS Ag day was a success



- Ag students from CRHS and OHS participated in State Fair competitions
- Mock interviews were held at OHS through Ms. Helner's class
- ASVAB is offered at both high schools
- National Technical Honor Society inductions were held
- Leadership conferences attended by FBLA and FCCLA students
- Prostart students prepared food for the honor society induction and for the Central Office Leadership Meeting
- Our annual Career Expo will be held on November 10th inviting grades 7 – 12 to join in the fun while learning about a possible career
- 7th and 8th graders across the district begin their career development plan on the districts' Future for Kids website



Other special projects: Science teachers were invited to visit the hydrogen fuel cell at Piedmont Electric and Solar Farm at Durham Tech-Orange County Campus.



Patricia Harris,
Director of Career & Technical Education

ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOLS
**CULTURAL
ARTS**
PROGRAMS

Off to a quick start in the Cultural Arts programs! We would like to welcome Jared Taylor to Orange High School,

Theatre Arts Instructor. They have already had their first production called, "Almost Maine" this October. Find us at http://www.orange.k12.nc.us/academic_dept_pages/culturalarts.html

Hopefully you have had a chance to check out our productions or will be able to catch a performance:

Festival of Plays – CRHS

Joust – Pathways

Choral Concerts –
Middle and High

Band concerts –
Middle and High



We now have the cultural arts calendar on the Orange County Schools homepage: www.orange.k12.nc.us.

Art work is always displayed in each school but also at Orange County Schools Central Office in the board room as well as at both State Employees' Credit Unions.

In November, our Stanford Middle School band, director Mary May and Cedar Ridge High School chorus, director Chris Hansen, will have the distinct honor of performing at the North Carolina Music Association Conference held in Winston Salem. This invitation speaks highly of our programs in Orange County Schools.

Make sure you watch out for more information about the All-County Chorus which will occur on November 19th. This special concert will have participants from all elementary, middle and high schools.

As an arts staff, we have been meeting as PLC's to begin the process of unpacking the new NC Essential Standards for arts.

Music curriculum focuses on three strands: Music Literacy, Musical Response, and Contextual Relevancy.

Theatre Arts: Communication, Analysis, Aesthetics, and Culture.

Visual Arts: Visual Literacy, Contextual Relevancy, and Critical Response.

Thanks for supporting the arts!



Patricia Harris
Director of Cultural Arts

Exceptional Children's Professional Development

Hill Reading Achievement Program in collaboration with The North Carolina Dropout Prevention Grant is underway!

In the spring of last year, Orange County Schools Exceptional Children's Program, The Hill Center and the N.C. Parent Teacher Association joined forces to provide reading instruction to students in the middle and high schools who are struggling readers. Nine teachers and one teacher assistant participated in three full days of Hill Methodology staff development prior to the implementation this school year. The Hill Center staff has also provided two half day follow-up sessions and one to one coaching sessions to all interventionists this fall.

We have two middle schools, C.W. Stanford and Gravelly Hill Middle School, and both high schools participating in the grant. There are a total of forty-three students receiving reading instruction through the grant. Teachers are busy identifying and ordering reading materials for students' in-home library that each will receive as part of the grant. Parents also play an important role in this initiative. The N. C. Parent Teacher Association has hosted several parent support nights throughout the district for participants and their families.

The Hill Center and The North Carolina PTA are also providing teacher support and development for teachers not participating directly in the grant. Together they have partnered to offer 120 scholarships for any Orange County Schools teacher interested in earning CEU credits in reading.

The following online courses are offered free of charge to Orange County Schools teachers (up to 180 participants) through The Hill Center. For additional information, please contact patti.sproule@orange.k12.nc.us.

Hill Center Online Course Offerings

Diverse Learners: Meeting Individual Needs

Students bring a wide variety of abilities and skills to the classroom. Their diverse characteristics and learning profiles can pose challenges to teachers, who are charged with delivering a high-quality curriculum to all students.

This course will provide teachers with:

- Effective instructional strategies that address the learning environment, flexible grouping, high-quality curriculum, and continuous assessment

- Knowledge about incorporating student interest, learning styles, and readiness levels into lesson and unit plans, resulting in meaningful instruction that addresses content standards
- An overview of accommodations and assistive technology to enhance their understanding of differentiated practices

Intended Audience: All Teachers and Administrators

CEU: 1.0

Phonics: Breaking the Code

In this interactive workshop, attendees will engage in activities that will enable them to break the challenging alphabetic code for students. Participants will explore:

- The basics of teaching phonics in a structured, sequential manner, using key words and phonetic patterns
- Phonological awareness as a key component to reading success
- Word segmentation using the six syllable types with both real words and nonsense words

Intended Audience: All Teachers, Reading Specialists, and Speech/Language Pathologists

CEU: 1.0

Understanding Learning Differences: An Introduction to Learning Disabilities and Attention Deficit Disorders

While examining the background, definitions, red flags, and characteristics of LD and ADHD, participants will:

- Experience simulations of how it feels to have a learning difference
- Learn about standardized diagnostic educational instruments and how to interpret results for planning individualized instruction
- Learn to recognize the social/emotional aspects of learning disabilities and attention deficit disorders

Intended Audience: All Educators and Administrators

CEU: 1.0

Continued on page 16 ►

Hill Reading Achievement Program in collaboration with The North Carolina Dropout Prevention Grant is underway! . . .Continued from page 15

Eliminating Executive Dysfunction: Study Skills for the 21st Century Learner

Students with strong executive function skills are more likely to be successful in school. This workshop focuses on incorporating study skills into the daily classroom program. Participants will learn:

- Strategies that will allow students with executive dysfunction to be more efficient and effective learners
- Tips for improving organization, completing assignments, and time management skills, through the use of assistive technology
- Tips for organization, time management, and homework

Intended Audience: All Educators

CEU: 1.0



Milinda Martina,
Director of Exceptional Children's Programs

Welcome Fall . . .Continued from page 1

Bright Ideas Grant Award Winners

Congratulations to the following Orange County Schools teachers who recently were awarded Bright Ideas grants which are funded from the North Carolina Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.

Collectively, a dozen Orange County Schools classroom teachers were awarded a total of \$11,579.00 for classroom projects. They are:

School	Teacher	Amount	Grant Title
Pathways	Jennifer Behringer	\$1,469.00	Wind Farming
Orange High	Nina Day	\$1,000.00	Rocking the World with OCCAM XII
A.L. Stanback	Brandon Thompson	\$1,000.00	Robotics
New Hope	Sarah Davies	\$1,500.00	Music for ALL
Gravelly Hill	Thomas Watson	\$810.00	Honor Flight Project
A.L. Stanback	Kristie Mabry	\$500.00	Scientific Literacy
A.L. Stanback	Nancy Huskins	\$900.00	Graduation Success
New Hope	Nancy Cheek	\$1,350.00	M-P-3 Read!
Gravelly Hill	Krista Hawks	\$550.00	Educational Apps
Grady Brown	Diana Barefoot	\$1,000.00	PVP Pipe Builder's Project
Gravelly Hill	Melissa Barnhouse	\$750.00	Lifelong Readers
Orange High	Alia Granger	\$750.00	Family Connections
Grand Total		\$11,579.00	



Denise Morton,
Chief Academic Officer

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS is published quarterly by the Curriculum & Instruction Department of Orange County Schools. If you have questions or comments, you can contact Dr. Denise Morton, Chief Academic Officer for Orange County Schools at denise.morton@orange.k12.nc.us or by U.S. Mail at Orange County Board of Education, 200 East King Street, Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278.