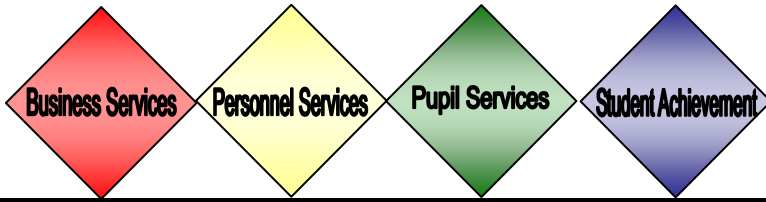




# School District of New London

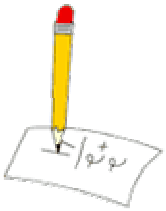


## MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Kathy Gwidt

Director of Teaching and Learning

Date: April 2009



### Math Expressions

Our elementary team is prepared to begin the process of ordering and implementing updated math resources.

Advances in child development, psychology and neuroscience continue to challenge our ideas and assumptions about the way children learn mathematics as well as the way we teach mathematics. Our most recent elementary mathematics adoption took place in 1998. Since that time, research and resources have developed that help us to better understand how we can move children from concrete to abstract mathematical understandings.

It is our recommendation that we adopt Math Expressions. This program provides a blend of student-centered and teacher directed approaches. Students question and discuss math, but are explicitly taught effective procedures.

There is an emphasis on using multiple objects, drawings, and language to represent concepts, and an emphasis on learning through the use of real-world situations. Students are expected to explain and justify solutions.

As you know, student fees are collected at the start of each school year for the purpose of updating curriculum resources. This curriculum textbook budget will be applied over the next two-three years to make this purchase of approximately \$110,000. This K-5 adoption of resources will be implemented using the following timeline:

- \*Grades K-3: 2009-10 school year
- \*Grades 4-5: 2010-11 school year

Professional development will be provided yet this school year, and Title I stimulus dollars will be used to accomplish these goals.

We are eager to place the order, begin training and implement new resources for the 2009-10 school year.

### WI State Assessment System Press Release:

Although Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam results have been available for the past few weeks; we are not allowed to publicly release this data until April 28. On this date, data can be accessed through the Department of Public Instruction website: <http://dpi.wi.gov/sig/index.html>

These reports were provided to us much earlier than in past years. I will share additional information during an upcoming Board meeting, but please be sure to let me know if you have any questions before this time.

### Project Lead The Way®

A report to the School Board will be provided to share information about Project Lead the Way (PLTW) during our April 13 meeting. PLTW is all about teaching and learning. It embraces a hands-on, project/problem solving based philosophy which adds rigor and relevance to curriculums related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

We would like to pursue the implementation of the PLTW *Gateway to Technology* program at the middle school in 2009-10. Units will show students how engineers use technology to solve everyday problems. We would then expand this opportunity to the high school in 2010-11. At that time we would introduce *Pathway to Engineering* and the *Biomedical Sciences* programs. Students with an interest in exploring careers in engineering and medicine will find this opportunity to be a fantastic doorway to the future of these industries.

Please check out the PLTW website for additional information: <http://www.pltw.org/>

### Website Training:

Donna Young organized staff development for all certified staff to create, update and maintain a classroom website. Michele Green and Pat Peters assisted in providing these training sessions at each school. Thank you to the LMC team for providing this opportunity! Be sure to check out classroom and library websites at each school.