School District of New London

Business Services | Personnel Services | Pupil Services | Student Achievement

DIVISION MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Ann Christopherson
Division: Pupil Services
Date: August 2009

ARRA Update: Instructional Data Coach:

Mrs. Gwidt and I have looked to ARRA dollars to fund to an Instructional Data Coach in the areas of Special Education and Title I. The Data Coach will use our regular assessment data with teaching staff to improve instructional practices and student outcomes to close achievement gaps for these two student populations. Approved by the DPI and a priority of ARRA funds, student improvement through the use of appropriate intervention and teaching strategies will be a yearlong focus. Mrs. Melanee Sherman, SLD Teacher at Sugar Bush, is up for the challenge for the 2009-2010 school year. Her work at Sugar Bush looking at Scantron data to fill gaps in the past for one building will strengthen teacher skills across the district. She will work closely with Mrs. Gwidt and me. Her base station will be at Lincoln Elementary, but she will work with individual teachers across the district. ARRA funding through Flow Through will pay for ½ of Mrs. Sherman's salary and benefits for the coming school year. In the following year, she will return to her role as a special educator at Sugar Bush.

District-wide Bilingual Registration

This year on Monday, August 17, 2009, registration for ALL bilingual students (Grades K-12) will be held at the High School with bilingual support. Also on this date, we will meet with all bilingual parents to share ACCESS test results, changes in the school district and details about the bilingual telephone line.

Registration with Spanish language supports will be available from 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM. This single location service is being provided to better assist our bilingual families with interpreters and less travel to several buildings. Parents and students are still encouraged to visit each child's school prior to the start of the school year.

OPEN HOUSE

Invitations have been sent to our families. We also invite you to visit our new early childhood: Special Education and Functional Skills (Cognitive Disabilities) classrooms on the afternoon of Thursday, August 27, 2009, between the hours of 1:00 and 3:00 PM. at New London High School.

2009 School Law Summer Institute

Many of our administrative team members took part in the 2009 School Law Summer Institute through Davis and Kuelthau on July 23 or August 6, 2009.

Many of the morning's topics were good reviews for each of us, looking again at suspension, expulsion, teacher evaluation, discipline, student rights and seclusion and physical restraint. A key focus of the morning was how we respond to issues of bullying within the school setting.

Bullying focused on two groups: students and employees of school districts. We were reminded that when it has been determined our students have taken part in bullying behaviors, it is our responsibility to maintain order and discipline, and we may take disciplinary action including suspension, expulsion, and referral to law enforcement officials for legal action. Employees found to have participated in bullying behavior, *or having become aware that bullying behavior was taking place and failed to report the behavior*, are considered to be in violation of the policy and subject to disciplinary action.

This component of the school law institute connects to discrimination awareness across the district and bully prevention initiatives in place at Parkview. This initiative will grow in the coming school years.