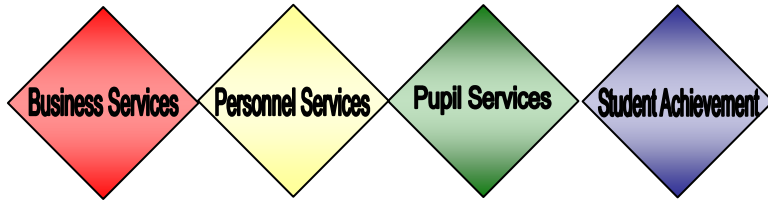




School District of New London



MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Kathy Gwidt

Director of Teaching and Learning

Date: August, 2009

Technology Proficiencies:

Open labs have been provided for administrators, technology committee members, and teachers who have expressed interest in completing their Technology Proficiencies prior to the start of the 2009-10 school year. A training calendar, tutorials and more can be found on the staff website that provides a detailed description of these requirements. For additional information, check out:

<http://www.newlondon.k12.wi.us/techprof.cfm>

National Writing Project:

Callie Cochran-Hager, Ron DuVernay and Jennifer Pelot completed the National Writing Project's (NWP) four-week Summer Institute at UW Oshkosh. They join a growing number of participants from our district who have worked to learn new strategies to help students become accomplished writers and learners.

Lori Menning will help to work with interested NWP alumni to support our district's participation in *The National Day of Writing* on Tuesday, October 20.



Alternative Certified Staff Evaluation:

High school principal, Joe Pomrening, served as the administrative representative on our Mission Leadership Team's *Alternative Evaluation Action Team*. This team identified a process that provides differentiation to the current system of teacher evaluation; one that provides differentiation to encourage individualized growth. The process was recently presented to the Administrative Team and will be piloted during the 2009-10 school year with several veteran staff members.

Response to Intervention:

Elementary principals, middle school principals and school psychologists recently joined me for a presentation titled: *Response to Intervention: What Effective Instruction Looks Like*. Our K-8 schools will work to define a consistent framework for RtI during the 2009-10 school year.

Wisconsin's framework for Response to Intervention (RtI) is based on the following principles:

- RtI is for ALL children and ALL educators.
- RtI must support and provide value to effective practices.
- Success for RtI lies within the classroom through collaboration.
- RtI supports and provides value to the use of multiple assessments to inform instructional practices.
- RtI is something you do and not necessarily something you buy.
- RtI emerges from and supports research and evidence based practice.

K-8 Science:

Our work to provide clear learning targets and the upcoming implementation of Project Lead the Way uncovered a need to review and revise all K-8 science curriculums. Revisions are now complete and have been published for review.

The greatest changes were made at grades five through eight. Physical, earth, space and life sciences will be presented at each grade level, yet there will be a focus at each which includes:

- Grade 5: Space science
- Grade 6: Earth science
- Grade 7: Life science
- Grade 8: Physical science

This revision will allow us to explore the possibility of offering biology to ninth grade students during the 2010-11 school year.