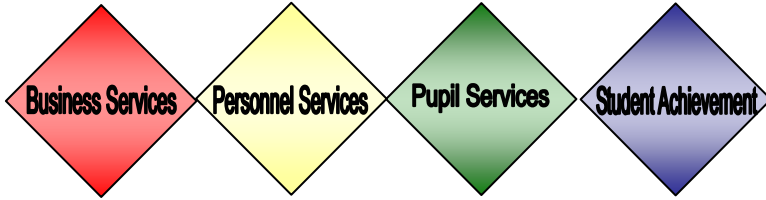




# School District of New London



## MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Kathy Gwidt

Director of Teaching and Learning

Date: January, 2010



### Project Lead the Way (PLTW):

Although there is no charge for the PLTW curriculums, there are costs associated with the hardware, software and professional development expenses required to implement the program. We have recently written and submitted a grant to the Kern Family Foundation to aid in funding for costs related to the high school's *Pathway to Engineering* program, and which will supplement funding for the *Gateway to Technology* program which is already up and running at the Middle School.

We just received notice that our grant request was funded in the amount of \$45,000. \$10,000 will be awarded in year 1, \$25,000 in year 2, and \$10,000 in year 3. This will allow us to proceed with the implementation of PLTW at the high school which will add a minimum of four courses in the next five years.

During the 2010 school year we will focus on the implementation of *Introduction to Engineering Design*. This class will allow students to use sophisticated 3D modeling software to improve existing products, invent new ones, and communicate the details of the products to others.

High school technical education teachers, Lisa Breaker and Brian Kurszewski, will participate in summer training opportunities at Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) which will prepare them to teach future PLTW classes.

We are also in the planning stages with Outagamie and Waupaca counties for the potential participation in an additional grant which will allow a summer school session for Middle School students to extend learning in a *Gateway Summer Academy*.

We will soon organize our school and community partners for a session to ensure adequate planning and preparation for this exceptional learning opportunity.

### Math Expressions:

Professional development opportunities are ongoing during our first year using *Math Expressions* resources. Title I teachers recently took part in a training session and provided planning for the support of math interventions in our primary classrooms.

### Program Review

The challenges of the 21st century global economy require us to continually improve and make necessary changes to our system to ensure success for all learners. A review of programs will be provided in an upcoming Board Report to better inform stakeholders of the vision of summer school, gifted and talented, curriculum and professional development.



### Technology Proficiencies:

The due date for the completion of Level I Technology Proficiencies is fast approaching. Fifty percent of the certified staff has completed this requirement and the remainder will

continue to participate in a variety of training opportunities offered by our Library Media Technology specialists and Technology Committee team members. Many staff members are assisting their peers with individual questions which help to maximize learning and improve the potential for technology integration in our classrooms. As I review these proficiencies, it is evident that many staff members have a much better understanding of how technology can be used to enrich and enhance learning. Check out the following website for additional information on Level 1 Technology Proficiencies:

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