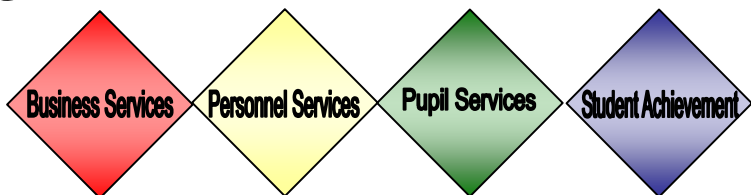




School District of New London



MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Kathy Gwidt

Director of Teaching and Learning

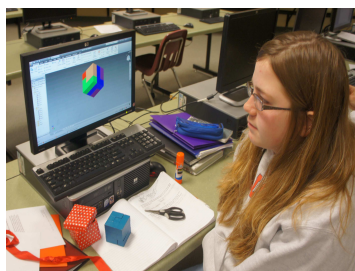
Date: January, 2012

Professional Learning:

Recent changes made to our district's inservice schedule have been enthusiastically endorsed. December 22 marked our second inservice opportunity of the school year which spanned from 8:00-12:00 and included all School District of New London staff members.

This expanded time made it possible for everyone to hear Marinette High School's Associate Principal, Doug Polomis, chronicle their tragic experience in 2010 and emphasize the importance of establishing and strengthening relationships with students and their families.

This foundation allowed us to connect with the SWAT team's presentation, active shooter drill and full group opportunity to debrief. Each school, and our district, will use this collective experience to review practice and policy. This and other recent inservice opportunities would not have proved nearly as effective without the extended span of time dedicated to learning.



Introduction to Engineering:

Students in this Project Lead the Way (PLTW) course have recently completed the *Puzzle Design Challenge*. Here they are posed with

a problem that leads them to design, test, build, document and present a puzzle cube using 27 3/4" wooden cubes left over from a local furniture manufacturing company. Instead of throwing away the scrap and losing money the company looks to turn the project into profit. This is just one example of problem and project-based learning that will be strengthened as we move closer to the Career Academy structure in upcoming months.

Social Studies Curriculum:

We have been working on slight revisions to our K-12 social studies curriculums in an effort to reduce gaps and/or overlaps in instruction as students move from one grade level to the next.

Concepts, skills and generalizations developed in K-8 will lead to a study of the world, with history as a lead discipline. One key difference will be that students in grade 9 will expand their understanding of history and the social sciences as they relate their studies to our global society. Students will examine American social, economic and political institutions while applying their learning to better understand similarities and differences among societies.

Most recently, the focus has been on grades 5-9 to ensure learning targets are understood and clearly communicated. We will continue the review of resources as opportunities for interdisciplinary instruction between social studies and language arts are strengthened.



Mini Grant Awarded:

Congratulations to Lori Menning who was recently awarded a mini grant of \$1,000 through the Memorial Library in New York which will be used to enrich her students' understanding of the Holocaust. Activities will include continued visits from a local Holocaust survivor, resources and a trip to the Holocaust Education Resource Center in Milwaukee. These resources and experiences will be shared as we continue our work with K-12 social studies and language arts curriculums.