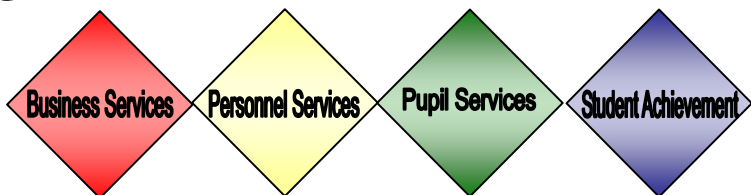




School District of New London



MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Kathy Gwidt

Director of Teaching and Learning

Date: September, 2011

Mentor Program:

Wendy Dallman and Tami Thorne will serve as facilitators for the 2011-12 Mentor Program. Seminars and Moodle online learning will offer opportunity for Year 1 initial educators and their mentors to ensure understanding of day-to-day classroom expectations. Year 2 initial educators and their mentors will focus on the development of Professional Development Plans.

We thank Wendy and Tami for their leadership and dedication to this Promising Program which has been recently recognized by the Department of Public Instruction.



DPI Goal: A Strong Early Childhood Community in Wisconsin:

The Department of Public Instruction and CESA 6 recently shared information about the Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council. They stressed the benefits of participation and the importance of partnerships with the business community. Research citing the benefits of early learning remind us to compare the dollars needed to fund pre-K with the dollars saved when children don't require expensive services later in life. Savings manifest in reduced grade repetition, fewer special education placements, lower crime rates, and reduced reliance on welfare.

Wisconsin has the highest share of 4-year-olds in publicly funded early education in the Midwest with 84% of our state's school districts currently offering 4K programs. The School District of New London is proud to be included in this group.

Electronic Grading and Reporting:

Grades 3, 4, 5 and elementary art classes are piloting StandardsScore's Electronic Grading and Reporting. A full day of training was recently provided to a group of 35 teachers and principals who worked to understand capabilities of this tool. Implementation will be closely monitored as we work to improve feedback between home and school.

We have welcomed 147 new 4K students to the 2011-12 school year. Our community collaborative approach provides 4K at school and community sites which include: Lincoln, Parkview, Readfield, Day Care Center of New London, Headstart, and Kuddly Kids. We look forward to another very successful school year.

Advanced Placement (AP) Art:

After researching the benefits of offering Advanced Placement Art, Bob Smith has organized an independent study that allows two students to participate in AP Art Studio classes. These courses are designed for students who are seriously interested in the practical experience of art. AP Studio Art is not based on a written examination; instead, students submit portfolios for evaluation at the end of the school year. The students who are participating in this offering are working to prepare their portfolios through organized AP instruction. Progress will be reported throughout the 2011-12 school year.

