Mathematics Initiatives

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December 4, 2006

Teaching for Understanding

- A District Goal
- o Implemented K-12
- Student-centered approach to learning

Understanding by Design

UbD is a backward design
 Emphasizes understanding and conceptual learning

Understanding by Design: Math Examples

Examples of Big Ideas:

- Mathematics is a system of patterns
- Statistics can represent a model of complex phenomena
- Fractions and Percentages can represent the whole or portions of the whole

Staff Development

o 30 hours for every teacher of math

- Math, ESL and Special Education (K-8)
- Content and pedagogy
- Aligned with State standards
- Staff Developers
 - Dr. Elliot Bird, Prof. of Mathematics, C.W. Post
 - Mariana Ristea, K-12 Math Coordinator
 - Judy Dodge, National Consultant

Improved Collaboration Among Departments

Mathematics
ESL
Special Education
Teaming

Math Committee

- Includes teachers and administrators from across the District
- Responsibilities
 - Evaluate curriculum/pacing charts
 - Investigate new resources
 - Development of new assessments
 - Recommend professional development strategies

Benchmark Tests

- Being developed
- Provide data for differentiation of instruction
- Are reflected in pacing guides
- Allow for uniform assessment of all students
- Prepare for State assessments in March

Extended Math Instruction

- Redistribute resources at Middle School
- Minimum on 60 minutes of instruction each day K-5
- Bilingual math class at Middle School

Development of Pacing Guides

- Grades 1 12
- Designed to ensure that all teachers adequately complete the pre-March curriculum
- Clear and structured reflection of flow of topics
- Aligned with resources
- Aligned with standards

Online Resources and Math Vocabulary

- Available for math teachers at all levels
- Available for Special Education and ESL teachers involved in math

High School AIS for Math A

- Identification and recommendation of appropriate students
- One semester in duration
- Offer assistance in math basics and strategies in problem solving

New High School Courses

o Math Research

- Introduction to research and provide opportunity to connect with professionals
- Math Applications
 - Project based approach
- Computer Math
 - Relationship between math and technology

Future Needs/Initiatives

- Creation of additional bilingual sections at Middle School
 - Provide more bilingual instruction to reduce the achievement GAP
- Smaller AIS classes at High School

Future Needs/Initiatives

 Investigate effective remedial math programs

Use of technology

- scientific calculators
- educational software
- o IB Program at High School

Expectations for '07—'08 School Year

- Increased time for math instruction (K-8)
- Revised curriculum and pacing guides
- Continued professional development
- Effective and aligned resources
- Common assessments and formative testing
- Teaching for Understanding not coverage