



WAPPINGERS
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Empower
Challenge
Grow

ELEMENTARY SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES INITIATIVE

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Science Initiative Action Steps

- Instruction
- Curriculum
- Professional Development
- Instructional Leadership/Managerial Actions
- Resources

NYSSLS



Instruction

- In the fall of 2017, the District will implement an instructional model for all science lessons that focuses upon the 5Es (Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate and Evaluate)
- Science content will be infused into the literacy blocks



Curriculum

- Kindergarten and First Grade have been updated by Science 21. The new curriculum includes the concepts required by the newly adopted New York State Science Standards (Science 21 will continue to update their curriculum one grade each year).
- The WCSD Curriculum for Second through Sixth Grade will be updated during the summer of 2017 to include one STEAM project per quarter for each grade level.

Professional Development

- Administrators will be trained during the August Administrative Retreat on the New York State Science Standards, the 5E Instructional Model, and the updates to the WCSD Science Curriculum.
- One of the first Superintendent's Conference Days for the 2017-2018 school year will focus on the new standards, science instruction in the classroom, the newly added STEAM projects, and the new resources.
- Each year, two teachers from Wappingers Central School District participate in Science 21's summer curriculum writing and full year pilot of the newly developed curriculum. Kindergarten and First Grade teachers participated during the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years. In 2017-2018 school year, two second grade teachers from Wappingers will be participating.
- The WCSD has become a satellite training site for Science 21. This allows our teachers to have easy access to the training when the updated curriculum is released. We hosted two 3-day sessions during the 2016-2017 school year for Kindergarten teachers.

Instructional Leadership/Managerial

- In preparation for the 2017-18 school year, the Elementary Principals have agreed to standardize the "Specials" schedule to include nine sections of specials each day with the last section ending at 3 pm.
- Elementary Principals will be using a common scheduling tool for allocating Art / Music / PE teacher FTE. This will give all buildings access to the special area teachers' schedules and allow us to consider how best to schedule our science curriculum enhancements.
- Superintendent initiative for the 2017-2018 school year: at least one teacher observation will be conducted in the area of science

Instructional Resources

- Science 21 Curriculum and accompanying science materials
- 2016-2017, implemented Flying Start to Literacy, which is a resource teachers use in primary classrooms for guided reading that includes content-based titles. It is currently in Kindergarten and we will be infusing this resource into first and second grades over the next few years.
- Independent Classroom Libraries purchased for the 2017-2018 school year will have a 50% focus upon science content. This will be a combination of individual titles as well as multiple copy sets. Fishkill Plains is currently piloting possible resources for fourth through sixth grades.
- The District's Instructional Model for Science Instruction
- STEAM projects that will be infused into the District's STEAM Curriculum Overview

Social Studies Initiative: Year 3

Curriculum and Instruction

- In the fall 2017, the District will continue to implement the social studies curriculum, inclusive of the technology-enhanced units (K-6) and inquiry-based units (K-6).
- Additional social studies content will be infused into the literacy blocks

Professional Development

Teachers will continue to receive professional development on the implementation of social studies via the professional development specialists, curriculum support teachers, and administrative staff

Social Studies Initiative: Con't

Instructional Resources

- Social studies curriculum and supporting materials will be available on the Teaching and Learning website for all teachers to access.
- Independent classroom libraries have been purchased with a focus on social studies content. Additional materials will be ordered to support the writing which takes place over the summer.
- Further development of the technology-enhanced units will take place to ensure all teachers understand implementation.
- Curriculum writing will focus on infusing social studies into the District's Curriculum Overview.
- Professional development specialist will focus on infusing social studies into strategy group work.