



Teaching and Learning

2010-11 Annual Report

Overview of Department

Work in the Teaching and Learning Department this year resulted in the implementation of science materials that allow for digital access to the text and resources for all students grades 6-12 and a review and update of curriculum maps by the science department. Steps were also taken by the District English Language Arts Review Committee which resulted in work toward a comprehensive scope and sequence plan for ELA K-12. The K-5 staff members will continue working during the summer of 2010 and into the fall to finalize the plan and share with all staff. The 6-8 staff plans to work with the ELA consultant from the OAISD to align their teaching with the [Common Core State Standards](#). The media services side of the department facilitated the staffing of the media centers and brought improved service to staff and students. The media staff is working with a newly upgraded management system and helping teachers and students use it proficiently.

Department Goals and Staff Professional Development

2010-11 goals for the department included a complete conversion to Alexandria system with upgrade in December, increased circulation, train all staff in purchased database programs for teacher/student research, train new media center aide at Oakwood, provide student support, and conduct the bi-annual Family Reading Night.



The department of Teaching and Learning again focused on Professional Development for all staff. The Summer Academy was again held with 45 teachers attending at least one session. Moodle training and preparation for the upgrade to 2.0 took place throughout the year. Concentration in 2010-11 was on student use of the tools available for project creation, research, and learning. Professional development was focused in these areas, along with increased discussion on formative assessment and the tools now

available. Teachers also took part in book studies and discussion groups involved in the implementation of Response to Intervention (RtI) for students K-8.

The partnership between Grand Valley State University and the 6-12 teachers continued in 2010-11.

Departments met with a facilitator from GVSU four times during the year for at least one-half day. Discussions, demonstrations, and sharing of best practice use of technology and resources was the primary agenda topic at each meeting. This will be the final year of formal CFTIG (Content Focused Teacher Inquiry Groups) but some groups will be continuing the relationships with the facilitator informally.

Courses, Assessments and Student Opportunities

A new Advanced Placement Biology course was added to the High School curriculum with training for the instructor and resources provided. Use of Michigan Virtual High School has increased at the 9-12 grades. Courses are offered virtually that are not available locally including Advanced Placement and enrichment courses. In 2011-12 several students will be enrolled in Spanish IV to continue their foreign language study.

[NWEA Measures of Academic Progress](#) (MAP) testing began in the 2010-11 school year for grades 3-8. These diagnostic tests were given three times during the school year. The results provide information to the classroom teachers to direct their teaching. In the 2011-12 school year high school students in grade 10 will be included in the testing. [Delta Math Screeners](#) and intervention resources were also provided for students through sixth grade.

Fifty-six separate videoconferences were held during 2010-11 allowing the students in Allendale Public Schools to visit with authors, war veterans, archaeologists, astronauts, scientists, and college professors. Classes also visited museums including the Mariner's Museum in Virginia, The Pro Football Hall of Fame (for marketing research), and spoke with the managing editor of online and print journals (journalism students). Two classes collaborated on projects with students in Wales during the month of March.