

4th & 5th Grade Notes

May 28, 2009

- **Pacing Guides:**
 - Lessons will be packaged in a six week block of 5 lessons. Teachers will be expected to complete all 5 lessons within the six week time frame.
 - The first lesson block will start the week of August 24th.
 - Teachers can adjust and re-teach lessons as they see fit within the six week time frame.
 - Entire year of Pacing Guides will be posted on district web site at the beginning of August.
 - A hard copy of the Pacing Guide will be sent to your building for each teacher at the beginning of the school year.
 - There will be no StoryTown lesson taught during ISAT week.
 - There will also be a floating week during the month of February that will allow for ISAT prep work.
 - Other text, like chapter books, can be taught with lessons as long as the teachers are reinforcing the skills that should be taught during that time.
 - Pacing Guide's format will be reviewed at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.
- **Reading Workshop Ideas and Materials Needed:**
 - Use the Challenge Resource Kit with the upper level students.
 - Use the StoryTown Web games that can be found on the district's resource page. Click "resource" at the top of the page, and then select "teacher" then choose the Harcourt Resources. This site has many ideas for all grade levels.
 - Practice book pages can be done during Readers Workshop time.
 - Need higher level books and lower level books for this time.
 - AR can be incorporated into this time as well.
 - Reading Workshop should always take place even when teachers are on re-teaching weeks.
 - The only week you will not have Readers Workshop is during ISAT week.
- **Assessments:**
 - Theme Test: The decision to give the theme tests or parts of the theme tests will be a building/grade level decision.
 - Weekly Test: The decision to give weekly tests will be a classroom teacher decision.
 - Some schools have made their own bubble answer sheets for weekly test that give students practice on bubbling. We would like these put on the web site.
 - Quarterly Assessments: Teachers do not feel quarterly reading assessments are needed. Students are being assessed through weekly test and portions of the theme test.
 - Maze: We will add on the Maze assessment. Teachers will be in-serviced at the beginning of the year on this assessment. This test is the comprehension piece that goes along with AIMSweb oral reading fluency assessment.
 - Teachers would like a color chart that list the benchmarks for fall, winter and spring for oral reading fluency and the Maze assessment.
- **Questions or Ideas:**
 - Organization in Readers Workshop.
 - More information on what teachers can be included in Reader Workshop time to make the number of students in groups smaller at the higher reading levels
 - Teachers have tied in web sites, like the Discovery Channel, which have programs on different topics that match the lesson being taught in StoryTown.
 - Teachers have developed many power point activities that go along with the StoryTown lessons. Teachers would like to have these power points put on the district's resource page.
 - StoryTown does not have enough poetry in it for ISAT
 - Many teachers have made copies of the first two pages of each lesson, the lesson planner, and use this to guide their lessons instead of caring around the teachers' book.