

## Kindergarten Grade Notes May 28, 2009

- **Pacing Guides:**
  - August 19<sup>th</sup> – September 4<sup>th</sup> will be dedicated to “Kindergarten Getting Started Activities”.
  - The week before Christmas break will be a free week for seasonal activities.
  - Review weeks in StoryTown can also be supplemented with seasonal or review activities as needed.
  - 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
  - Pacing Guide’s format will be reviewed at the end of the 2009-2010 school year
- **Reading Workshop Ideas and Materials Needed:**
  - StoryTown activities 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.
  - Teachers like the idea of a Reading Workshop schedule, where the Early Intervention teacher goes into every Kindergarten classroom for 40 minutes daily. They participate in centers where they provide Phonemic Awareness activities to all the students.
  - This would only be done for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the school year. Then Early Intervention teachers would pullout Tier 2 and 3 students.
  - Most Early Intervention teachers are using the Strategic Intervention Kits or the Sound Sensible kits.
  - Whoever provides Tier 2 and Tier 3 intervention for Kindergarten students should be responsible for keeping data on the student’s progress
  - Teachers would like us to talk with other school districts to see what they are doing for Rtl in their Kindergarten classrooms.
  - Would like to see a Kindergarten screening tool to help with classroom placement and the ability to provide intervention for students earlier.
  - Need more blue and green level books. Do not like the red level books.
- **Word Wall Words:**
  - Would like to have all Popcorn words up by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter.
  - Will distribute new pacing list for the Popcorn words and StoryTown words. This will be embedded in the new Pacing Guide.
  - Some teachers have two separate boards for their Popcorn words and their StoryTown words.
- **Assessments:**
  - Theme Test: Most teachers do not use this assessment the test is too long for the students and more information is gained from the Blue Book.
  - DRA will still be given in the spring.
  - Blue Book: Teachers like the information that they get from the Blue Book, but feel it takes a lot of time to test each student individually, and many teachers want to test their students themselves and not have someone else do the testing.
  - AIMSweb: Teachers like the parent report because it is a good visual for the parents.

- Teachers feel they need more in-service on how to interpret all the reports and how to explain reports to the parents.
  - Teachers would like information on how the test is administered and what each test looks like and what it is telling them about their students.
  - Teachers feel that they need to look at the data from the Blue Book and AIMSweb to get a good view on how a student is doing in Kindergarten.
  - Teachers do not mind giving out the parent reports as long as they understand how to explain the reports to the parents and that the printing cost does not come out of the building budget.
  - The decision was made to give the 4<sup>th</sup> test on AIMSweb in the spring for Nonsense Words.
  - There is concern that Kindergarten students do not test well when they are tested by a stranger.
- **Questions or Ideas:**
    - Concerns about the math assessment are the scores beneficial?
    - Short Books: teachers really like these books but many building were not able to purchase these books for their students due to budget cuts. These books are good to send home with students and reinforce the Popcorn words.
    - Teachers are not sure how to use the one Saxon Phonics kit as a Tier 2 intervention. Teachers do not feel these kits will be used.
    - Teachers felt that the grade level meeting was very beneficial and would like to see this done next year, but more often than just at the end of the year.