

August 2017 Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Updates

Engaging curriculum and instruction changes will create new learning opportunities in Libertyville District 70 elementary schools this year for language arts, language skills, science and health. Changes align with strategic plan initiatives, new Illinois Learning Standards and Libertyville District 70's Applications of Learning which inspire making connections, working on teams, communicating, using technology, and self-direction. Continued collaboration and professional development will guide implementation and support of these learning opportunities that will continue to evolve.

Language and science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) skills are becoming more necessary to succeed in careers that continue to evolve. By introducing Libertyville District 70 students to world language, coding and STEAM skills early on, students will be equipped with a skill set necessary to be innovative, succeed in their careers, and learn tools to shape the future.

Enhanced Development of Language Skills for French, Spanish and Coding

Libertyville District 70 will focus on enhancing student proficiency in more than one language to prepare students to be college and career ready. Fifth grade students will begin learning French and Spanish via online learning with Rosetta Stone. Students in kindergarten through fifth grade will have more opportunities to learn the computer language of coding.

Feedback gathered from previous surveys and during the Strategic Plan process indicated world languages are important to parents of Libertyville District 70. Research suggests that learning international languages can enhance students' mental focus, reading and writing abilities, critical thinking skills, and perspectives about different cultures. Fifth grade students will learn French during the first half of the year and Spanish for the second half of the year. Students will learn via Rosetta Stone for thirty minutes a week at school and will have opportunities to continue online learning at home. Modifications made to the schedule to create time for international language included changing the format of direct keyboarding practice that also is practiced in second, third and fourth grades. Recent changes such as increased typing opportunities and online learning of French and Spanish will continue to support the development of students' keyboarding skills.

Rosetta Stone was one of two online language programs that were recently field tested. Other options such as hiring an international language teacher were reviewed, but the online learning will provide accessibility, differentiation and flexibility students can benefit from. International language for Highland students will be reviewed this year as will providing French and Spanish interaction opportunities between fifth and sixth grade students.

Students in kindergarten through fifth grade will learn about coding with Learning Center Directors. Students will code during activities that are scheduled during a separate time from when their class visits the Learning Center to check out books and learn different skills such as literature appreciation access and evaluation of information. An example of coding activities

could be determining and inputting a series of sequential directions to move an object or creating basic loops to repeat a sequence of commands. The technology language of coding (computer programming) is an extension of writing. The ability to code allows students to “write” interactive animations, stories, games, and simulations. In the process of learning to code, students learn mathematical and computational ideas (such as variables and conditionals) and learning strategies for solving problems, designing projects, and communicating ideas. Coding transcends languages. Ultimately, there is a shift in mindsets, to see coding not only as a pathway to a career, but as a new context for learning, form of expression, and language. As Steve Jobs said, “Everyone should learn to code ... because it teaches you how to think.”

Science and Innovation

Elementary students will be learning with new science curriculum and will engage in new innovation opportunities in makerspaces. Kindergarten through fifth grade students will continue learning with STEMscopes resources that were purchased in January of 2017. STEMscopes activities provide hands-on inquiry opportunities for students to engage, explore, explain, elaborate and evaluate as they learn scientific and engineering practices, crosscutting concepts and disciplinary core ideas that align with the New Illinois Science Standards. Rigorous labs require students to actively problem solve, learn collaboratively, and write “Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning” explanations of their thinking.

Makerspace opportunities also will be enhanced this year. Adler, Butterfield, Copeland and Rockland school will continue to learn and grow with expanded makerspace opportunities for students during exploration opportunities with Learning Center Directors. A makerspace is a metaphor for a unique learning environment that drives curiosity and innovation by fostering opportunities to share tools, ideas and skills to explore and create. Activities typically relate to science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM). Makerspaces are unique, relevant, and meaningful spaces for schools to create conditions to inspire students to build, tinker, explore, think, question, design, create, struggle, collaborate, try, solve, invent, reflect and learn.

Health

Health standards are included in the Illinois Enhanced Physical Education Standards. Students in Libertyville District 70 elementary schools will learn more about health topics during health classes with the physical education teachers once a week for one trimester. Students will learn about topics such as nutrition, hygiene and body systems with primary materials from Health World Education. The enhanced health education will help students learn skills they will use to make healthy choices throughout their lifetime.

Language Arts

Elementary school students will be learning with new reading, word study, vocabulary and writing materials this year. Teachers reviewed and field tested different language arts programs last year to guide the selection of materials that aligned with Illinois State Standards and Libertyville District 70 student needs at different grade levels. Collaborative Classroom will be the primary resource for kindergarten and first grade students while Journeys (from Houghton

Mifflin Harcourt) will be the primary resource for second through fifth grade students. Noted below is an overview of both programs. **Parents are invited to learn more about both language arts programs on August 22nd from 6:15 to 7:45 p.m. in the gymnasium at Copeland Manor School.** Additional information also will be available on the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment website after the meeting and throughout the year (d70schools.org).

Collaborative Classroom builds foundations for reading success while also integrating reading instruction with the social learning needed to build a caring classroom community. This research-based curriculum teaches foundational skills in the context of rich literacy experiences that foster students' growth as responsible, caring, and collaborative people. Collaborative Classroom combines the strengths of whole-class and small-group instruction to develop confident readers who love to read, understand what they read, and can discuss their ideas and opinions with others. The program is designed to illuminate student thinking about literature, supporting the development of critical thinking, comprehension and vocabulary skills while also fostering a lifelong love of reading. Collaborative Classroom also integrates reading and discussion about exemplar texts, critical thinking about texts, and authentic writing for various purposes and audiences.

Journeys is considered one of the most widely used Reading/ELA programs in the country. From the first day of each lesson, Journeys uses authentic, complex texts to ensure students are always engaged with high-quality text worth reading closely. The Journeys close reading routine—Think Through the Text, Analyze the Text, Independent Reading—is practical and powerful because it provides students the time and support they need to dig deeply and build lifelong habits of close reading. To apply those habits of close reading effectively, students will practice within the Student eBook and a consumable Journeys Close Reader notebook. The Journeys Leveled Readers, spanning levels A–Z, will facilitate differentiation that aligns with reading assessments already administered in Libertyville District 70. Writing instruction in Journeys focuses on one genre for a whole unit, paced into daily lessons to build students' skills and confidence in Persuasive/ Opinion, Informative/ Explanatory, and Narrative forms.

Highland

Curriculum and instruction initiatives at Highland Middle School include new opportunities regarding technology, French, Spanish, Science and Writing.

Using technology to improve and amplify teaching and learning will be a focus at Highland this year as technology enhancements provide Highland students with tools to support their success at school and home, in the community, and with future careers. The goal of this enhanced focus is to develop Accountable, Collaborative, Creative, Engaged and Self-directed Students (ACCESS).

Staff will review current materials and learning opportunities for French, Spanish and Science and evaluate new materials and programs that enhance alignment with New Illinois Learning

Standards, best practices and Libertyville District 70's Applications of Learning. Staff also will continue discussions about argumentative writing across departments and grade levels that began last year with presentations from staff from Highland's Language Arts and Literature department and Community High School District 128. Examples of areas of focus include common writing terminology, forming an argument, citing textual evidence and integrating ideas into the evidence.

Assessment Overview

Teachers assess student understanding, learning and growth in a variety of informal and formal ways throughout the school year. Noted below are a list of assessments that will be administered this year to help students, teachers and parents better understand strengths and areas that can be targeted for improvement.

2017-2018 Libertyville District 70 Assessments

Assessment	Dates	Grades
STAR Early Literacy	<u>Fall:</u> (K-5) Aug 28 – Aug 30 <u>Winter:</u> (K-5) Jan 22– Jan 24 <u>Spring:</u> (K-5) May 7 – May 9	Kindergarten
STAR Reading	<u>Fall:</u> (K-5) Aug 28 – Aug 30 (HI) Aug 29 – Aug 30 <u>Winter:</u> (K-5) Jan 22– Jan 24 (HI) Jan 22– Jan 23 <u>Spring:</u> (K-5) May 7 – May 9 (HI) May 7 th -8 th	1 st -8 th
STAR Math	<u>Fall:</u> (K-5) Aug 28 – Aug 30 (HI) Aug 29 – Aug 30 <u>Winter:</u> (K-5) Jan 22– Jan 24 ((HI) Jan 22– Jan 23 <u>Spring:</u> (K-5) May 7 – May 9 (HI) May 7 th -8 th	1 st -8 th
<u>Fountas and Pinnell</u>	<u>Fall:</u> September <u>Winter:</u> Dec. through Jan. 31st <u>Spring:</u> Apr. & May (only to students reading below grade level)	K-5
<u>CogAT</u>	February 6-8 (Tuesday - Thursday)	2 nd
PARCC /ISA (Illinois Science Assessment)	April 5 – April 13 (Highland) April 9 – April 18 (Elementary schools)	PARCC (3 rd -8 th) ISA (5 th & 8 th)

Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS)	Full implementation in 2017-18 (enter data on 40 th day in October. Can also enter data on 105 th day in early February and on 170 th day in May)	Kindergarten
Fitnessgram Assessments	Submit to ISBE via IWAS by June 1st	5 th and 7 th