

Good evening Highland Park. This is Dr. Taylor with a message about our school district's focus on elevating the quality of instruction and assessment. Our community deserves a world class academic program. I've talked about efforts to build socially and emotionally healthy children in a series of Honeywells because this wellness is the absolute foundation for academic success. A child cannot be academically successful if he or she is not socially and emotionally healthy. Now I will communicate, in a series of messages, a vision for making our school district a top ranked academic institution.

The leadership team is taking a multi-prong approach to achievement and leveraging the second focus area of our strategic plan- the set of goals and action steps that are about individualizing learning experiences and improving the quality of education.

Right away the team took to shoring up the continuity of curricula. Continuity is the repetition of important concepts within the curriculum across grade levels and over time from one grade to the next. Students will develop mastery when skills and concepts appear throughout the curriculum at a gradual, higher level of complexity. This process takes time and, as codified in Strategic Plan Goal G.2.4, will continue for at least the next five years. You can download the Five Year Curriculum Revision Cycle by going to the following website: <http://tinyurl.com/gvo6and> This mid-range plan assures us that every subject area program will undergo a complete audit.

The year a subject area is in the research phase (the first step of the revision cycle) will include a review of the resources teachers are using to deliver instruction. For instance, the district's math curriculum committee is currently working with Supervisor Dr. Nicosia to evaluate Everyday Math and is exploring other materials that may be proven more effective.

While they are working hard to build a continuous sequence of curricula, teachers, led by our supervisors, are deciding on student outcomes and how we expect kids will demonstrate mastery of these outcomes. Our decisions about our programs are being made with the outcomes in mind. You will see "Mastery Skills" appear at the beginning of each curriculum guide, the list's place in the document illustrating the importance of what we expect our students to be able to know and do.

Tonight's message emphasis was on curriculum growth. My December 7 Honeywell will focus on professional development efforts, and on December 21 I will explain ways school personnel are being held accountable for teaching and student support excellence.

I'll be thinking of all of you, our kids, and our community this Thanksgiving. Have a good night.