

Honeywell Update- February 17, 2016

Good evening Highland Park, this is Dr. Taylor sharing with you the second of three messages about the state of curriculum, instruction, and assessment in our school district. I have identified specific needs in these areas that are being addressed by seven committees of teachers currently led by me and soon to be guided by our supervisors of curriculum and instruction. I spoke two weeks ago specifically about the hard work our teachers are doing in small committees to address gaps and redundancies in our curricula.

What you should also know is that a clear plan is being developed to strategically elevate the quality of each curriculum guide in all of our schools. A Five Year Curriculum Review Cycle will be presented to faculty and the general community in April.

Each step of the cycle will start by having teachers research best practices in the selected content area of study (language arts, math, science, social studies, and all of the “special subject” classes our students take). The program of focus will then be redesigned in the second year of the cycle and will be fully implemented in the classroom by year three. The fourth and fifth steps of the Five Year Curriculum Review Cycle will call for an evaluation of the program to examine its student achievement effectiveness.

There will be specific curriculum needs that call for immediate attention as our district implements the review cycle. We will be putting short-term solutions in place to address these needs. I can tell you this evening that one such immediate need is to provide more comprehensive Family Life Education for our students. The Physical Education Department will tend to this need, and I would like to suggest that our parent and guardian community consider a resource that can be found on the web called KidsHealth. Visiting www.kidshealth.org will provide easy, very approachable strategies to help families speak with young children about such topics as nutrition and puberty.

My next Honeywell message, broadcast on March 2, will focus on our school district’s plans to revamp the way we assess your children. Until then, please have a great night.

#37950