

Honeywell Update- March 2, 2016

Good evening Highland Park, this is Dr. Taylor with the third of three messages about the state of curriculum, instruction, and assessment in our school district. My previous Honeywells focused on the district's plan to drastically elevate the quality of curricula our teachers implement in their classrooms. The focus of tonight's message is on assessment practice.

Standardized testing has, unfortunately, become the federal and state governments' singular focus of measuring a student's success. Our school community knows that kids learn in different ways, have different types of "intelligences" and demonstrate these intelligences through different avenues of evaluation. A standardized assessment is only one measure of a child's ability and it is must be recognized that not all children effectively demonstrate their intelligences in a standardized manner.

The teachers in our school district will begin the arduous but all all important work in the next one to two years of creating different types of assessments that authentically determine kids' progress not just in the area of academic improvement, but in the arena of social-emotional learning as well. Working in grade-level and content department teams, faculty will create common assessments of different types (i.e. projects, oral presentations, media displays, etc.). Our children will be provided multiple ways to express their abilities in a multitude of skill areas.

You'll learn about our progress through Honeywell messages, written letters, and evening meetings in good time. I'll send along my next message to you on March 16 at which time I'll talk about plans for the exciting strategic planning process set to take place in late April. For now, please have a good night.