

Curriculum Newsletter - 3/20/15

Welcome to the first newsletter shared by the Curriculum Office. As I meet with teachers, I hear that many trainings, new websites, apps, workshops etc. are great but reminders can be very helpful. In these newsletters, I will simply share ideas, reference trainings and materials and anything else that I think you may find helpful - especially as a reminder - OR maybe you're finding out for the first time!!! Share your apps, websites, trainings and any other tools you are using that you think someone else would like to know about/be reminded about. **Suggestions are always welcome.** Enjoy!!!! ~Joan



NEWSELA - www.newsela.com - this is a very exciting website and can be used by all middle and high school teachers. I received such a positive response from groups of teachers who were using NEWSELA in their classroom that the district purchased the "Pro" version for your use. You can change lexile levels, have students take an on-line quiz and keep track of student work in their system. There is a huge selection of non-fiction articles that align to all curriculum. Use your TDA training to have students write an on-line response to an article. **Exciting!!! Enjoy!!!**

Close Reading/TDA - groups of teachers at the IS and MS are completing training on how to design appropriate TDA (Text Dependent Analysis) questions. I've attended the trainings and found them to be valuable with time given to create and "take back to the classroom." Find those teachers who were trained - I've been in to observe them in action AND they are AWESOME! Their kiddos are working hard. Additional trainings for ELA, Science, Social Studies and Related Arts being offered at the IU this summer. Please contact me if you are interested. [Click here for more info on TDA.](#)

RAISE/RA - Groups of teachers at the MS and HS have been attending and implementing (or re-implementing for some) RA (Reading Apprenticeship) strategies in their classrooms. Sharing often takes place in team or department meetings and sometimes after school. These teachers are a WONDERFUL resource. Again, if your secondary students struggle in reading then doing anything involving the reading of physical or on-line materials will be tough. **These folks can help you!**

Discovery Techbook - The MS Social Studies Department adopted the Social Studies Discovery Techbook - it's entirely on-line and has proven to be a valuable resource not just for the Social Studies Dept. but others like ELA... who are seeking to integrate. **YEAH!!!!**

Shared Inquiry - Our MS ELA teachers participated in Shared Inquiry training through Great Books last summer and I'm hearing only positive feedback. Shared Inquiry isn't just for ELA. Science, Social Studies and Related Arts would see benefit and could jump on board. Planning now for summer 2015 training with a **focus on non-fiction!!!!**