

Uxbridge Public Schools

Connect Best Practices in Curriculum – Instruction – Assessment To Improve Achievement for Every Student

Monthly Report for March, 2008 Howard D. Boyaj

Strategic Plan: Progress Report

The Strategic Plan for 2007-2008 includes numerous goals, objectives, and action plans that focus on providing “challenging educational programs and services to meet the diverse needs of all students.” Strategic planning for improvement of these programs and practices is an ongoing process in the Uxbridge Public Schools. Considerable progress has been made this school year to address the goals in our Strategic Plan. An Interim Progress-Report (powerpoint) is attached for your review. I will be available at the next School Committee meeting to review and/or answer questions about this Progress Report.

Study Island Software Program

This year, Uxbridge Public Schools has implemented the use of Study Island at grades two through eight. Study Island is a web based program designed around the MCAS tests. The Study Island MCAS program is specifically designed to help students master the content specified in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Students can pace themselves through the material or be directed by their teacher to specific material based on individual need or current class content. Also, Study Island provides immediate remediation and feedback to students and important, meaningful data to teachers. To date, Whitin Students have logged a total of over 2000 hours on Study Island MCAS preparation and answered a total of 316,525 questions.

MCAS-Prep Classes

Statewide MCAS tests in Mathematics will be administered to students in grades 3-4-5-6-7-8-10 during the period from May 12 to May 30, 2008. Uxbridge Public Schools, including Taft, Whitin, and UHS, will be offering a special program of classes for selected students who could benefit from extra-help in preparation for the upcoming MCAS math tests.

A series of twelve (hour-long) prep-classes will be held at each school during both before-school and after-school hours. Classes will be taught by Uxbridge teachers using actual MCAS test math questions and problems. Classes are scheduled to be held during the four weeks before the actual State testing. See the attached Special Parent Newsletter for more detailed information about this program.

First Steps in Mathematics

First steps in Mathematics is a Professional Development Resource program that trains teachers in grades 1-8 to successfully diagnose, plan, implement, and evaluate their students' learning experiences in Mathematics. First Steps requires teachers to participate in three full-days (18 hours) of extensive training to learn how to use resource materials, diagnostic tools, and learning activities to improve math achievement for all students. I am pleased to report that First Steps training for our region will be held at the Whitin School on April 14, 15, and 30, 2008. (See www.stepspd.org for more information.)

The following Uxbridge teachers will be participating in this First Steps training:

Grade 1	Lillian Hazard, Patricia Stankevitz, Susan Allaire
Grade 2	Susan DuBois, Christine Keown
Grade 3	Bernadette Bazzett, Lisa Ferrelli
Grade 4	Sharon Bruneau, Linda Benoit
Grade 5	Nadine Clifford, Theresa McCallum
Grade 6	Kimberly Mulderig, Kara Ekstrom
Grade 7	Jennifer Clark, Steven Sweet
Grade 8	Christine Robbins, Jason Tronerud