



Curriculum Highlights

Memo

To: Dr. Mary Whitrock
From: Christine Damm
Date: April 2025
Re: Curriculum Highlights for April

- 1. Assessment Update** – RASD students in grades 3-8 have almost completed the WI Forward Exam. Students in grade 10 were administered the Wisconsin Forward Exam for Social Studies on April 9, along with PreACT Secure. The WI Forward window closes on April 25. Students in grades 9 and 10 also took the PreACT Secure exam on April 8 and 9. Juniors and Seniors reported to their regularly scheduled classes both days of PreACT Secure testing. We hope to complete makeup testing for students who were absent by the end of April 18. Students in Grade 11 who took the ACT 11 exam on March 26 have begun to receive their results via mail and their MyACT account.
- 2. Summer School 2025** – Registration for the 2025 Summer School Program has begun. The 2025 Summer School registration was made available to families on April 11. Parents received a one-page informational flyer with Registration QR codes and links on the back to register their children for the 2025 Summer School Program, including links to sign up for swim lessons and bus transportation. 4K-2 registration offers a simple one-stop registration featuring a camp-like morning session to prepare students for the grade they will be entering in the fall. Murray Park and Ripon Middle will continue to offer a menu of both academic and enrichment courses for students to choose from. A variety of additional afternoon sports camps have also been added to the 2025 summer program. The 2025 summer school registration flyer has been attached to the April Board agenda to preview.
- 3. Professional Development** – K-5 teaching staff were brought together in the RHS/RMS Media Center on April 1 for a collaborative morning of learning about high leverage instructional strategies for teaching decoding and encoding strategies to students. Our final PD literacy session on May 3 will include reflection of new implementation and learning to date, along with a survey to collect data regarding implementation of new curriculum materials. We will also be sharing our long-range plan regarding literacy PD to meet the requirements of ACT 20 and continue to implement new resources into the 2024-25 school year and beyond. All certified staff, 4K-12 will spend a portion of their morning giving back to the community through our Ripon Reciprocates Project. At the start of the 2023-224 school year, building teams brainstormed opportunities to show appreciation and ways to thank

the community for their ongoing support. Staff will be conducting a variety of service-related projects from 10:00-noon throughout the community to wrap up the Ripon Reciprocates project. We will celebrate all of our staff during Teacher Appreciation Week May 6-10.

- 4. RHS Health Curriculum Resource Update** – A review of health standards and topics by our Human Growth and Development Advisory Team and high school health instructors prompted us to explore other resources for teaching health education. The health instructors, along with Chrisine Damm- Curriculum Director, and Vince Propson- RHS Assistant Principal, recommend Glencoe Health as our core instructional resource. [Glencoe Health](#) provides high-school students with age-appropriate content that aligns with the National Health Education Standards to help them become health-literate individuals. This research-based program focuses on the development and application of critical knowledge and skills during a crucial period in students' lives. *Glencoe Health* also emphasizes social and emotional skills while exploring up-to-date information and statistics on timely, relevant topics. A detailed recommendation has been attached to the Possible Upcoming Action section of this month's Board meeting.
- 5. New Teacher Week Schedule** – While August 18, 2025 has been reserved for New Curriculum Day, we will not be utilizing this day for any new curriculum work. I am proposing that we move the new teacher days, currently scheduled for August 19-22, to August 18-21 instead. This will provide new teachers with Friday, August 22nd off before returning for the full district back to school inservice week on August 25-27. Student orientation begins August 28-29, with all students fully returning on September 2.
- 6. Poverty Simulation- May 9 Teacher Inservice Day** – RASD will be hosting a Poverty Simulation for all certified staff during the May 9 teacher inservice day in the RHS commons. Secondary staff will participate in the poverty simulation from 8-11am, followed by elementary staff from 12-3pm. I would like to extend the invitation to RASD Board members and administrators, including Ron Rivard to attend one or both of the sessions. The MACA (Missouri Community Action Network) Poverty Simulation is designed to help those who have never experienced poverty better understand the challenges faced by those who live it daily. The simulation prompts participants to consider the following: Could you survive a month in poverty? What choices would you make if you had limited time and money? The simulation will be facilitated by Barney Slowey & Tamara Sharp- WI teachers & administrators, currently facilitators for the UW River Falls Administrative Leadership Program.