

Curriculum Update

MANCHESTER LOCAL SCHOOLS

FALL 2015



I am looking forward to a wonderful 2015-2016 school year and would like to periodically send curriculum updates that might be useful to Manchester teachers. Please see below for some helpful information on testing, license renewal and professional development.

What Has Changed and What Has Stayed the Same

This article was written by Char Shyrock of Bay Village Schools.

I feel that it is a great overview of what we can look forward to in the 2015-2016 school year. The links will take you to helpful resources, which you can also find on my online classroom at Panthercountry.org!

"Be the change."

There is an undercurrent of change that runs through education and carries along with it the constant need to adjust and update to new classroom conditions, new standards, new assessments, new teaching strategies, new students and new colleagues.

This summer in Ohio brought about a number of changes to the plan for Ohio State Tests. These changes were based on the input of teachers, parents and community members who wanted a shorter test aligned to Ohio Standards that could be given on one testing platform closer to the end of the school year. Ohio teachers will be working side by side with the Ohio Department of Education and AIR to build Ohio State Tests for ELA and math. These new tests will join our existing Ohio State Tests for sci-

ence and social studies and will be given this year. The good news is that Ohio teachers and students already have taken tests on the AIR technology platform. Districts who have been working to add devices and build infrastructure will be able to still give online tests. Paper and Pencil versions of all the tests will also continue to be available.

In addition to the change in the testing platform, new [Safe Harbor](#) provisions that put a hold on the use of Ohio State Test results in teacher evaluation, will allow teachers the opportunity to focus on instruction and on revising classroom assessments to better gather evidence of student learning. [Achievethecore.org](#) has excellent resources for teachers to use to continue to change their instructional practice to meet the depth of our standards and develop assessments to match to these standards.

[Aligned Blog - Achievethecore.org](#) - Tools to help teachers continue to develop standards aligned classroom materials/Tips and strategies from teachers who are working with Ohio standards

[Assessment Quality Criteria Checklist - Achievethecore.org](#)—Use this to

develop or revise your own assessments aligned to standards

There are a number of key pieces in Ohio education that are staying the same. Our Ohio Learning Standards have been in place since 2010 and Ohio teachers continue to locally develop lessons around these more challenging standards. Instruction that meets the needs of all students will always be the main priority in Ohio classrooms. Good Formative Instruction and Assessment are essential to planning instruction that helps all students succeed. Teachers have been using formative assessment to make changes in instruction to immediately meet the needs of their students. Parents are partners in the education of their children. The Ohio PTA is working to continue to support parents as districts move forward with the new Ohio State Tests.

All of the work Ohio teachers and administrators did last year to make the shift to the new, computer based, standards aligned tests has helped to build a solid base for the 2015-2016 tests. This year, we can keep our focus on instruction.

UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

- **September 23rd, 2015—**
GAR Grant Teaser Follow up—
MMS Library—3:15

Thank you, Mrs. McClain and Mrs. Spear for leading an excellent summer in-service opportunity for us on August 11th!

**Please take a look at [my online classroom on Panthercountry.org](#). I will be keeping it up to date with various curriculum and testing resources!

Sharing with our Colleagues

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela

Grant opportunities!

Check out this [website](#)—it is a huge and free database for a number of educational grants!

Testing

[Here is how Ohio will build the new ELA and Math Tests](#)

[Some very helpful FAQs that could be shared with parents.](#)

—Please follow the above link and click on Ohio's State Tests, information for students and families.

Professional Development

Is: Educational.

Learning to enhance work in the classroom and create student academic growth.

Improving personal and professional growth of the teacher

~6 Hours of professional development are required each year for compensated day in October for full time teachers.

Professional Development Is Not: Earned during the regular school day (for example, attending a county work shop during the regular school day does not count toward professional development hours).

Other FAQs About Professional Development

- Professional development hours may count as contact hours for license renewal. A coursework Proposal/Verification Form must be completed and there must be documentation (I.E. – a certificate of contact hours)
- Any professional development not completed through the school and requested to be used for compensated school day must be documented and sent to Rachel Schutte for approval.

License Renewal

Each educator is responsible for the design of an Individual Professional Development Plan, subject to the approval of the Local Professional Development Committee. The plan should be based on the needs of the educator, the students, the school and the school district, and be aligned with the professional educator standards adopted by the State Board of Education. In accordance with the approved plan, the educator must complete: **Six semester hours of coursework related to classroom teaching and/or the area of licensure; or 18 continuing education units (CEUs) (180 contact hours) for license renewal** (Information from education.ohio.gov). These credits and CEUs may be completed through a college, university, workshop, etc.

Important License Renewal Notes:

- Please complete a Coursework Proposal/Verification Form for each class that is taken. Forms should be given to your building's LPDC representative in ADVANCE of the class. After the class is completed, the bottom half needs to be turned in to your LPDC Representative along with a transcript or grade report for verification. Please note: License Renewals will not be approved without college/university transcripts.
- Representatives (2015-1016) Nolley – Janet Toth, MMS – Danielle Bellis, HS – Marcia White, Admin – Mr. France.
- Tuition reimbursements and pay raises are handled through the Treasurer's Office. Please see the MEA contract, MEA officers, and/or your LPDC committee member for a "Pay Increase Request Form" and more information. The employee must apply for MA plus status by August 15 of each year to receive credit for that school year.

[Please follow this link to Ohio's Four-tiered Teacher Licensure Structure.](#)

[Please follow this link for the Professional Development handout on my online classroom.](#)