

Wilson County Schools

Middle School Curriculum Newsletter


IN THE MIDDLE

We Learn and We Create

VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 1 | 2012-2013


Oct.—Nov.



 **TAKE A LOOK ...**

Talk Tech 2

AIG Connections 3

 **IMPORTANT DATES...**

- ⇒ Oct. 4, 8,9 iPad Meetings
- ⇒ Oct. 17 Early Release
- ⇒ Oct. 26 Workday
- ⇒ Nov. 1 Report Cards
- ⇒ Nov. 12 Holiday
- ⇒ Nov. 21 Workday
- ⇒ Nov.22,23 Holidays



Curriculum Frameworks Taking Shape

Eighth grade teachers display their curriculum framework for English Language Arts. Curriculum frameworks are the first step in the unit planning process. When the frameworks are in place, they become the basis for unit planning, common assessments, and benchmark data. Since they are living documents, changes may be made when appropriate. As teachers throughout the district teach the current NC Standard Course of Study and collaborate with their district colleagues, pacing decisions will

become easier to make. It is expected that district frameworks will be created from the collaborative work of the teachers.



Contact us for your curriculum needs:

Executive Director of Secondary Educ.
David Lyndon

Middle School Curriculum Facilitators
Vernestine Kent
Debbie Prickett
Chanel Sidbury

Curriculum Specialist
Cynthia Wortham

IN THE MIDDLE



Middle Schoolers & iPads

Within the next few weeks, all middle school students and teachers will have iPads. In each issue, we'll include an app or other resource that we have discovered. Please share any good resources you have and we'll pass them on in the next newsletter!



Instructional Technology
Facilitators

Donna Malloy
Cara Patterson
Deepak Sharma

“Children must be taught how to think, not what to think.”

— Margaret Mead

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”

— W.B. Yeats

“In learning you will teach, and in teaching you will learn.”

— Phil Collins

“True teachers are those who use themselves as bridges over which they invite their students to cross; then, having facilitated their crossing, joyfully collapse, encouraging them to create their own.”

— Nikos Kazantzakis



A Middle School Teacher Takes Wilson County Schools Teacher of the Year Title!

Ms. Tracey Leon, eighth grade teacher at Toisnot Middle School is the 2013 WCS Teacher of the Year. This is the second year in a row that a middle school teacher has received this honor. Ms. Leon takes teaching very seriously. She works hard to set high expectations for her students by providing a rigorous curriculum. She is currently implementing the new NC SCOS and offers this advice to other middle school teachers—collaborate with your colleagues! According to Ms. Leon, working with others to share ideas and best practices makes the implementation of the new standards much easier and less overwhelming.

Congratulations, Ms. Leon!

Differentiation Is Key



Middle School
AIG Specialists

Robbie Davis
Rebecca Wise
Leigh Anne Howard

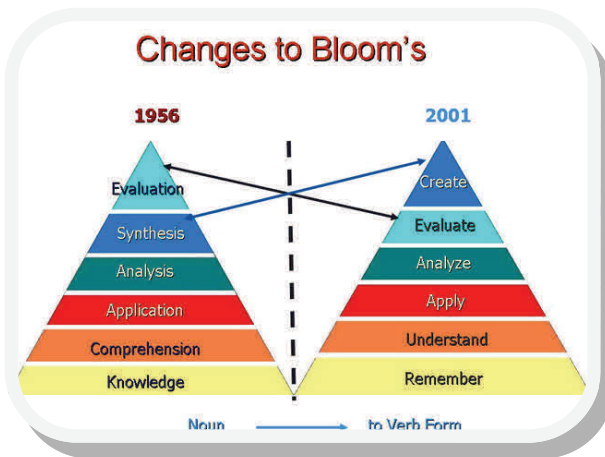
Differentiating the curriculum is critical so that every student is learning something new every day. Teachers are not just *teaching the content*, they are *teaching the student*. AIG students can challenge us because they often know at least some of the content being presented.

Here are some tips:

- * Give students a pre-test to access prior knowledge.
- * Offer students a more rigorous activity on the content being presented
- * Differentiate the content, process, and/or product to ensure students are working at the highest level possible of the Revised Bloom's taxonomy.
- * Ask challenging questions and assign high level assignments.
- * Group students functioning on high levels together for a task to encourage them to challenge each other.

The Revised Bloom's Taxonomy & The NC Standard Course of Study

Bloom's Taxonomy is a big piece of the Common Core State Standards and the NC Essential Standards. The newer taxonomy switched the order of the top two levels and the nouns are now verbs. The graphic (A) compares the first Bloom's with the Revised Bloom's. The Revised Bloom's Taxonomy (RBT) has reduced the number of verbs to twenty-five. (B) We are calling those verbs, "Power Verbs".



Graphic A

Cognitive Process			
Verbs in the Revised Bloom's Taxonomy			
Remember	Recognizing	Recalling	
Analyze	Differentiating	Organizing	Attributing
Understand	Interpreting	Exemplifying	
	Classifying	Summarizing	
	Explaining	Comparing	
	Inferring		
Apply	Executing	Implementing	
Evaluate	Checking	Critiquing	
Create	Generating	Planning	Producing

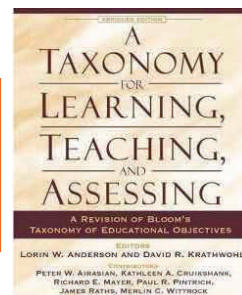
Graphic B

Resources:

- <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/standards/>
- <http://farr-integratingit.net/Theory/CriticalThinking/revisedcog.htm>
- <http://www.schrockguide.net/bloomin-apps.html>

**A Taxonomy for Learning, Teaching, and Assessing:
A Revision of Bloom's Taxonomy of Educational Objectives**
Lorin W. Anderson, David R. Krathwohl Peter W. Airasian Kathleen A. Cruikshank Richard E. Mayer Paul R. Pintrich (Author), James Rath Merlin C. Wittrock

Don't miss out on this resource! Be sure to scroll down...iPad apps!



Curriculum Facilitators will be distributing RBT flip cards to you in the near future. These cards will be a great resource to have on hand when generating high level questions, activities, products, etc.

WCS Curriculum and Instruction Binder

Binder Author: WCS - Wornham, Breedlove, L... | Details | Comments 0

Save | Quick Guide | Edit Menu

It's still the SCOS! Rigor Introduction CC ES PD Files Curriculum Planning PLC and Teamwork Common Core Essential Standards Assessment Online Assess. Info Writing

CC ES Resources Tech Integration Tools Differentiation Quick Reference Guides General Standards Info Middle School

Enter a URL: <http://www.livebinders.com/media/get/1262yMTy/nw> Insert Go to Site

<http://www.livebinders.com/edit/index/483201>

Don't forget to visit the WCS LiveBinder. The binder will be updated often with the latest information about curriculum and instruction.

Grade _____ Curriculum Framework _____ Subject _____

Month											
Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July

Unit Planning Organizer

Unit Name: _____ Date: _____

Unit Topics: _____

Standards (NCSCOS): _____

Formative Assessment: _____

Summative Assessment: _____

Unit Objectives: _____

Essential Questions: _____

Student Objectives: _____

Weekly Lesson Plan

Day	Learning Targets	Learning Experiences	Instructional Strategies	Student Discourse	21 st Century Skills
1					
2					
3					
4					

Lesson Plan

Lesson Title: _____

Objectives: _____

Materials: _____

Activities: _____

Assessments: _____

Curriculum Planning Process

On October 26, (Day 3 of the CC/ES Planning Days) district teams will again get together to continue the curriculum planning *process* begun on Days 1 and 2. This process is just that—a *process*. During Days 1 and 2, we outlined the process and presented a *sample* curriculum framework, unit planning organizer, weekly lesson plan, and daily lesson plan. As indicated then, these are samples and can be revised or not used at all. It is up to the building administrators to determine what documents are used and/or required. However, the outlined *process* is very important to the implementation of the new standards of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study and to the creating of district documents in the future. The collaboration and sharing that occurs during the five training days will be of great importance when district decisions are made. On Day 3, all curriculum frameworks will be needed to continue the horizontal planning among district colleagues. Other sites providing curriculum planning information include:

- <http://www.ccesa.net/common-core-resources/rigorous-curriculum-development-templates/>
- <http://www.ccesa.net/common-core-resources/unitsactivities/>