

Subject: JS Intl School - WL Planning (2000-03-15)

Sandra Hernandez and Michele Anciaux met at Lincoln today to continue work.

1. Sandra attended the Primary Years Program (PYP - part of the International Baccalaureate Organization) training this past weekend with Concie, Nani, and Margretta, teachers at Latona. We spent some time talking about Sandra's impressions from the training. She'll be sending a more detailed Email to Karen and the teachers, but here are a few highlights of our conversation.

In Sandra's experience, the PYP represents a new way for teachers to see and behave - to act more as facilitators to learning. They need to "front load" their lessons, providing real situations as much as possible up front for the students to experience their learning. This is fundamental.

We talked about how this represents more the "philosophy" of the classroom or school, rather than the content. For example, the Tahoma Curriculum that the John Stanford Intl School has purchased provides themes and content, and integrated lessons (at least that's our understanding), but not really the processes to support a certain philosophy of learning and teaching.

At the PYP training, they were taught to use a special PYP Planner. Everyone there was quite enthusiastic about it. Sandra seemed to think that the Latona teachers seemed to adapt quickly to it, perhaps because of the focus here on Inquiry-Based Learning.

If possible, we thought it would be good for Sandra to share some of her observations about PYP at the next UW Partnership meeting 3/28.

2. I am going to focus my efforts for the next couple of weeks on K-1 Math and Science in preparation for a brief presentation at the next UW Partnership meeting 3/28.

The approach will be a "layered" one:

LAYER 1

What is the current curriculum for K-1 Science and Math?

I talked with Dolly (Spanish teacher at Latona) about arranging a meeting with the K-1 teachers to review:

- current curriculum maps
- lesson plans
- classroom worksheets, materials, textbooks
- homework assignments
- sample student work (to understand level of work)

- assessments (quizzes, tests, projects, reports, etc.)

We'll try to meet before the 3/28 UW Partnership meeting so I'll have something to show there.

LAYER 2

What are the Seattle School District standards for Math and Science?

I have been reviewing the new district standards document for Math (Reading, Writing, etc., no Science yet). This provides very specific benchmarks for K-1, as well as lists of resources (books, etc.). We need to review the current curriculum (LAYER 1) in light of these new standards to see if there are any missing pieces. (For example, perhaps Probability has never been introduced before in K-1.)

LAYER 3

What new resources are going to be incorporated?

We know there are new science kits and some Foss kits in Spanish. What do these resources bring? How do they map to the standards? How would including them alter the current curriculum maps?

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Basically, LAYERS 1-3 should take us to what an "idealized" K-1 Math and Science curriculum would be in English. Now it's time to add Spanish.  
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LAYER 4

Where does Spanish fit in?

Is there anything that needs to change in the curriculum map for K-1 Math and Science based on constraints of doing these things in Spanish? (For example, perhaps certain topics that are a little more linguistically complex (such as comparisons) might be sequenced a little later in the year.)

LAYER 5

What are the language goals for Spanish?

This is where we look at the language goals for Spanish in general: the National Standards for Foreign Language, literacy expectations, etc. (It would also be appropriate to look at the District's Reading, Writing, and Communication Standards and benchmarks for K-1 to see which could/should apply to Spanish language competence as well as English.)

LAYER 6

What will the Spanish-language curriculum look like for K-1 Math & Science?

(Whoa... we're not there yet!)

NEXT STEPS:

1. Sandra and Michele will be in touch by Email to plan for the next UW Partnership meeting. Next meeting at Latona is 3/30/2000 8:30 AM to continue work on the files.
2. Michele will be reviewing the Nebraska K-12 Foreign Language Frameworks. (These look excellent!)
3. Dolly will arrange a meeting for Michele with the K-1 teachers to talk about current K-1 Math and Science Curriculum. (Possible dates: Mar 17, 27, April 5, 7, 18, 19, 20, 21)
4. If possible, we'd like to involve Donna Andrews from UW in following up on the site visits since Sandra probably won't have time for that. (see Email 2000-03-09)