Curriculum Focus – Math

The Educational Leadership Team is currently developing a curriculum review cycle, which will be shared with families after it is fully developed. Schools typically review curriculum in a cycle so as to ensure continual alignment and renewal given changes in the content area or best practices research. Curriculum is also reviewed in order to ensure that it meets the needs of our gifted learners. A cyclical review ensures that we are taking measured, thoughtful steps toward curriculum improvement so that teachers are able to consolidate changes that are made.

This year’s curriculum focus is math. We have reviewed the Ricks Strategic Plan, the National Association for Gifted Children standards, the Common Core math standards, our current math teaching resources, and student assessment data from the past month. The homeroom Team Leaders have selected *Bridges In Math* as a new primary resource for grades K-5. These grades will continue to use Investigations as a secondary resource, and to pull from other resources to supplement the program and differentiate the curriculum. Our research revealed that Bridges in Math will offer a comprehensive approach to both skills and conceptual understanding. Students will be grouped by math readiness level during the math block.

Our integrated units remain an important part of our curricular program at Ricks, and while math skills and concepts will be taught explicitly during math time, they will be applied and practiced in context on a regular basis via the integrated units.

Anne Wolf will be sending parents the results of the initial baseline math assessments that were administered during the first weeks of school. You should receive them by 9/23. The information will let you know which skills your child has mastered, as well as skills she or he will be learning this year. We are grouping across classrooms as needed when the new curriculum arrives and we start to use it.

EC Curriculum

In the prekindergarten program we are beginning a new and exciting partnership with the Morgridge College of Education here at DU. We will be implementing the new Connect4Learning curriculum. The curriculum uses research-based and classroom-tested practices in literacy, science, social-emotional, and mathematics learning. Teachers will receive professional development from the experts at the Marsico Institute located at the College of Education.

Ricks Center Website

Have you visited the Ricks website lately? In an effort to channel communication and communicate more dynamically, Ricks has been improving the school website. All school and RCA events are on the
calendar, Newsletters are being archived, class bogs are linked, and more! Please bookmark the website for easier one-stop information. Amy Jacobs at Amy.Jacobs@du.edu has done an excellent job of creating a more vibrant website for us. Thank you, Amy!

**Ricks Community Association (RCA) Committee Update**

After several years of leadership and involvement, Rebecca Berg has chosen to step down from her role as RCA President. We would like to thank Rebecca for her incredible efforts and positivity in leading the RCA! For the remainder of the school year, Teresa Matter will step in and function as President and Fundraising Chair. You can reach her at ricksvolunteers@gmail.com. Thank you, both, for your ongoing support!

**Ricks Sports**

Some shots from last week's games.

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**Crimson Classic**

Thank you to Mr. Jason and the RCA for fostering incredible community involvement in the Crimson Classic! Ricks was well-represented at the event.
Parent Expertise Survey
We are creating a database of parent expertise so that when teachers need experts to supplement their curriculum we can reach out to our Ricks families. If you have an area of expertise that you would be willing to share, please complete this survey.  https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CJPJ8NT

Upcoming Early Childhood Parent Education
This year Ricks will begin using the Teaching Strategies GOLD (TSG) assessment and progress monitoring tool, which is designed for use with children from birth through Kindergarten. Also, in accordance with best practice all children in the early childhood program will receive the ASQ, a developmental screening. Please join us on Monday, September 26 at 8:45 am to learn more about TSG and the ASQ. Please RSVP to attend.

Website Updates
We are working to add more content and information to our website. For example, if you are looking for previous weekly newsletters please visit the Weekly Update section, if you are looking for parent resources please visit the Resources and Documents section on the "My Ricks" tab, and if you are looking for information about RCA including minutes from RCA meetings please visit the RCA page. We will continue to update the homepage with new and interesting happenings on the DU campus and in the community and share our Faculty Focus. This week’s Faculty Focus is Krista Klabo, our School Psychology Intern.

Coming soon, watch for a new faculty section with staff bios, additional curricular information specific to each level and much more!

Playground Updates
Over the next few weeks and months you will be seeing some minor changes to the playgrounds. After a recent playground inspection, we have decided to replace some existing pieces. We will be removing old pieces and installing new ones over the next few months. This is an exciting and welcome change and we know the children will enjoy exploring their improved environment.

National Geographic Bee
One of the academic competitions that will be available to children in grades 4 – 8 this year is the National Geographic Bee. All teachers will have access to this year's geography curriculum after it is released in early October and we will have our school Bee in late January/early February. The state Bee will be held at DU on March 31, 2017, and our school winner will be invited to participate then. In conjunction with the National Geographic Bee, the National Geographic Society, and the Colorado Geographic Alliance, we will be hosting the Giant Map of Colorado in April and one of the giant continent maps in December or January. Details on those events will be shared closer to the maps' arrivals.
Save the Date
Parent-Teacher Conferences, Oct 20 and 21 (No school for students)
NAEYC and the Importance of Play, Nov 3, 8:45-9:45am
RCA Gala, Nov 11
Bullying Prevention Parent Workshop, Nov 17, 8:45-9:45 am
Grandparents and Special Persons Day, Nov 28, 9:00-11:00