



Dr. McCally's Update January 2010

AVID Started at OHS and OMS

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is an academic support program for students that prepares them for college and career success. AVID targets academically average students with the ability and determination to perform better. The students are challenged by their AVID teacher to perform to their potential. The AVID curriculum focuses on teaching extensive study skills, writing skills, reading skills, and inquiry skills (WICR) that will help students succeed in all their classes. There is also a tutoring component to the program. Area college students will be tutors so the AVID students can see firsthand that college is a reachable goal with some hard work. AVID students most likely would be the first in their family to attend college. AVID shows the students and their parents how to apply to colleges and helps them figure out how getting into college works. AVID also focuses on giving students skills so they are successful once they do get into college. Mr. Odum will teach 7th grade AVID and Mrs. Black will be teaching 9th grade AVID. The ability to implement this program came through a grant received from KSDE.

“Never discourage anyone who continually makes progress, no matter how slow.”

Plato

Curriculum Updates Put on Hold

For the 2009-2010 school there will be no curriculum revisions done. There were none scheduled anyway, but this comes at a particularly good time in terms of trying to save money and budgeting.

An Update on Kansas Writing and Social Studies Testing

The state has decided not to test students in social studies or writing at least through the 2011 school year. We should be just as vigilant teaching the standards in those areas, but at least we know those are two less tests our students will have to take for now.

District Improvement Update

The Ottawa School District is designated as a district on corrective action by the Kansas State Department of Education. If a district does not make adequate yearly progress (AYP) two years in a row for both math and reading for every subgroup of students, the district is put on improvement status. The Ottawa district was put on improvement in 2006 when we did not make AYP in 2005 and 2006. The district made AYP in both math and reading in 2007, but not in 2008. We again made AYP in 2009 in both math and reading, but a district must make AYP in both math and reading for two consecutive years to get off of improvement.

Now as a district on improvement we will work with the Kansas Learning Network (KLN). The KSDE has contracted with KLN to work with districts on improvement. We have already gone through the assessment process KLN goes through with each district they work with. Now we are ready to begin working on some of the goals set forth such as an in depth audit of the special education department and working with administrators to have a consistent walk through process where the results can then be used to help guide professional development.