



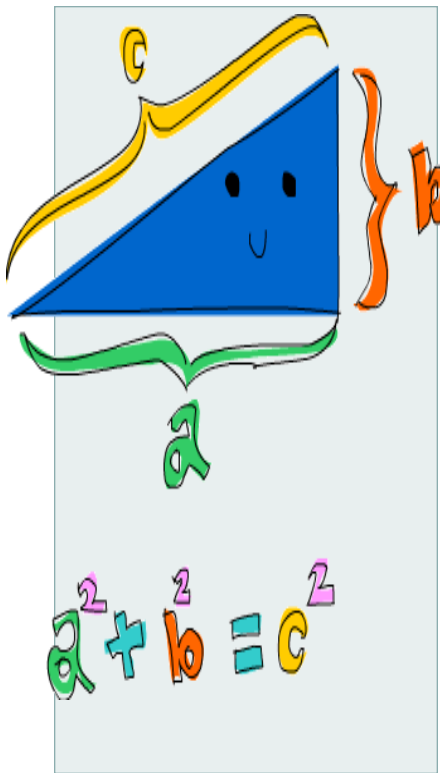
CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS 2015-2016

Balanced Literacy Grades K-5

We had great success this year with our new balanced literacy program in grades K-2. Students increased multiple reading levels with accuracy, fluency and comprehension. Teachers received many days of professional development in order to ascertain success this year. We loved the online materials provided and students loved to work with the SMART Board. We appreciated the amount of science and social studies that were incorporated into our balanced literacy program. Students did a wonderful job in writing personal narratives, persuasive essays, informational/research topics and descriptive essays. We enjoyed sharing our writing across the curriculum and look forward to doing more of that next year.

Teachers will receive a great deal of professional development next year in order to support them with our new initiatives. Students will learn to ask questions, make connections with prior knowledge and previously read texts, and ask questions to clarify misunderstandings. They will be involved with peer conferences and teacher conferences emphasizing students' independence and allowing them to become successful readers and writers outside of the classroom. Children were exposed to a variety of writing genres through mentor texts and mini lessons in writing. Students did a wonderful job in writing personal narratives, persuasive essays, informational/research topics and descriptive essays. We enjoyed sharing our writing across the curriculum and look forward to doing more of that next year.





LONG HILL TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

CURRICULUM DEPARTMENT

Dr. Lori Jones, Principal of
Gillette School, also serves
as the Director of
Curriculum for the District.

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MATHEMATICS GRADES K-8

Next year all of our teachers in grades K-8 will receive extensive professional development in the area of mathematics instruction and unpacking the Common Core State Standards. These professional development trainings are focused on mathematical content and pedagogy. Teachers will unpack the standards so they will have a thorough understanding of what students need to master.

Geometry – We are excited to offer geometry in our district this year. Mrs. Stepanian is a highly qualified teacher and is looking forward to this opportunity. She will be working this summer to develop the curriculum for our geometry students. We have been in constant communication with the Watchung Hills Regional High School, as well as with the sending districts making sure our students will be prepared.

SCIENCE GRADES K-8

We have worked this year editing our current middle school science curriculum to make it fully aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for September. The elementary teachers will be working on the current science curriculum next year for NGSS implementation for the 2017-2018 school year as per the Department of Education in NJ. We have applied to the Junior Solar Sprint program for our middle school science program. This program presents science concepts in a fun and exciting way, it gives students a chance to interact with engineers and scientists, it stimulates creative thinking through a hands-on design project, and helps students to experience the satisfaction of creating a working machine and the excitement of entering it in a competition.

SUMMER CURRICULUM WRITING

This summer we will be having teachers write our curriculum for the first time in many years. We will be using the Rubicon Curriculum Atlas template incorporating the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) that will replace the revised CCSS. We are very excited to be able to take advantage of our summer months to write our curriculum.

SENDING DISTRICT COLLABORATION

In working with the curriculum directors of the sending districts and WHRHS, we provided opportunities for our middle school teachers to collaborate with each other over best practices for our students. Central School teachers visited a ninth grade classroom based on their subject, for the morning, then spent the afternoon collaborating with those teachers. Our Central School mathematics teachers met with the new math supervisor at WHRHS, Mr. Twisler, and will continue to do so next year.

We have planned another year of shared professional development amongst our school district, the sending districts and WHRHS. Dr. Acevedo has met with the WHRHS Superintendent, Principal, and Director of Curriculum to strengthen our relationship and continue our efforts in collaboration.