

**Curriculum Department Report to the Board of Education**  
**Curriculum Department Highlights**  
**Mar 27, 2024**

**To:** Mr. Watts, Superintendent  
Ms. Malone, Chairperson of the Board  
Members of the Board of Education

**Newport Curriculum Department Vision:**

We envision a day when **all leaders** of Newport Independent Schools exhibit high expectations and guarantee excellence of instruction, ensure equitable opportunities and leverage all high quality resources so that students, staff and leaders will **maximize** their fullest potential.

## **Chief Academic Officer:**

### **Ignite the classroom**

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/18\\_RoUEX-NHFBhhoKa45YOvhoicb61SmP/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/18_RoUEX-NHFBhhoKa45YOvhoicb61SmP/view?usp=sharing)

Ignite the classroom! An Evening with Ron Clark and Huntington Bank had the pleasure of inviting Newport Independent Schools District (NISD) to an inspirational evening celebrating educators across Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky at the Music Hall Ball Room in Cincinnati OH. What an exciting event! Ron Clark, is the founder of the acclaimed Ron Clark Academy (RCA) in Atlanta. Ron shared his unique and immersive approach to creating a loving, engaging, and dynamic learning environment that fosters excellence and leadership for students and teachers. NISD joined the incredible evening, celebrating educators. Three NISD teachers were selected to participate in Professional Learning in Atlanta, GA at the Ron Clark Academy with all expenses paid (flight, lodging and professional learning experience) through a scholarship offered by Huntington Bank.

### **Newport's Portrait of a Graduate Training: NKCES and University of Kentucky**

"Portrait of a Learner" document outlines the skills, characteristics, and outcomes that the education system aims to develop in students. It may include information on the desired attributes of learners, educational goals, and the overall vision for student success within the state's educational framework. Newport Independent has completed and published its Portrait of a Graduate along with the strategic plan. This training is to support districts in designing an assessment system for the named competencies within the Portrait of a Graduate.

The next training session is scheduled for April 22, 2024. During this session selected core teachers and building instructional coaches will develop the required evidence that will be a part of the portrait of a graduate assessment system. This core group of teachers will also be the pilot teachers for the first year of implementation (2024-25).

In addition to the development of an assessment system for the Portrait of a Graduate we will be planning the professional development necessary for roll out with teachers and administrators. The overall training of teachers and administrators will occur during the summer Wildcat Academy.

Please find linked below the powerpoint from the April 22 session. This work was completed with coaching from the University of Kentucky and the Northern Kentucky Co-op.

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1QSwdKpm36YA59SJlwZCiSFu-0IQZYIyOCPAnZZtjOLk/edit?usp=sharing>

### **Preschool PLC**

Administration from the Primary, Preschool Teachers and aids as well as the Chief Academic officer and Special education director met to discuss next year's focus for the preschool. A needs assessment was taken and a root cause analysis was completed. The vision for the preschool is to improve student outcomes in the area of kindergarten readiness. This was the beginning meeting to set the vision, establish root cause of low student achievement, and plan for improvement.

Preschool education plays a vital role in preparing children for kindergarten. Here's why:

**Socialization:** Preschool provides children with opportunities to interact with peers and adults outside their immediate family. This socialization helps them learn essential social skills such as sharing, taking turns, and resolving conflicts. When children enter kindergarten, they are better equipped to navigate the social dynamics of a classroom setting.

**Language and Communication:** In preschool, children are exposed to a rich language environment where they learn new words, practice speaking, and develop listening skills. This foundation in language and communication is crucial for success in kindergarten, where verbal instruction and communication with teachers and classmates are integral parts of the learning process.

**Cognitive Development:** Preschool activities are designed to stimulate cognitive development through play-based learning. Children engage in activities that promote problem-solving, critical thinking, and creativity, which are essential skills for academic success in kindergarten and beyond.

**Fine and Gross Motor Skills:** Preschool activities often include art, music, and physical play, which help children develop both fine and gross motor skills. These skills are necessary for tasks such as writing, drawing, cutting, and participating in physical education activities in kindergarten.

**Independence and Self-Regulation:** Preschool provides children with opportunities to develop independence and self-regulation skills. They learn to follow routines, manage their emotions, and take care of basic needs such as using the restroom and dressing themselves. These skills contribute to a smooth transition to kindergarten, where children are expected to exhibit greater independence and self-control.

**Exposure to Academic Concepts:** While preschool focuses primarily on play and socialization, it also introduces children to basic academic concepts such as letters, numbers, colors, and shapes in a developmentally appropriate way. This exposure lays the groundwork for the more structured academic environment of kindergarten.

Overall, preschool education enhances kindergarten readiness by fostering social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development in young children. It provides them with the skills, knowledge, and confidence they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

**Director District Wide Services:**

Newport Independent Schools District is undertaking an innovative project to develop a comprehensive district-wide digital handbook. This initiative is spearheaded by a collegial system where multiple departments collaborate closely, ensuring a cohesive and inclusive resource. The digital handbook aims to serve as a pivotal tool for administration, teachers, staff, students, families, and the broader community, providing essential information and support tailored to their specific needs.

Each section of the handbook is crafted with input from various stakeholders, including educational leaders, IT personnel, and district representatives, to cover all facets of district operations and educational guidelines. This collective effort ensures that the handbook is not only informative but also reflective of the district's values and educational goals.

The digital format of the handbook allows for easy access and navigation, enabling users to quickly find the information they need, whether it's school policies, curriculum guidelines, or support services. The goal is to facilitate real-time updates, ensuring that all users have access to the most current information.

In addition to serving as an informational resource, the handbook will also include branding and marketing approach to attract future employees, department information and guidelines, interactive features such as FAQs, contact directories, and links to further resources, enhancing the user experience and providing additional layers of support.

The development of this digital handbook represents a significant step forward in the use of technology to support and enhance educational outcomes. It embodies the district's commitment to transparency, engagement, and community involvement, ensuring that all members of the Newport Independent Schools district and community are well-informed and supported.

Respectfully submitted,

Darla R Payne  
Chief Academic Officer

Katina Brown  
Director of District Wide Services