

Curriculum Department Report to the Board of Education
Curriculum Department Highlights
Jul 23, 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:

This report highlights the pivotal summer learning initiatives aimed at building teacher capacity and enhancing instructional practices. By focusing on professional development and innovative teaching strategies, these initiatives are designed to empower educators and improve student outcomes. The 2024 NKCES Deeper Learning Summit and the KY Reads to Succeed Summer Reading Conference served as key platforms for educators to engage with cutting-edge pedagogical approaches, evidence-based literacy practices, and strategies to bridge equity and innovation in the classroom. These events provided valuable insights and practical tools for teachers to enhance their craft, ultimately supporting our goal of fostering a robust and dynamic educational environment.

SUMMER TRAINING/CONFERENCES

2024 NKCES Deeper Learning Summit - Bridging Equity & Innovation For Success (June 10 - 11) at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

The Deeper Learning Summit, sponsored by the Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services (NKCES) on June 10 and 11, focused on advancing educational practices to foster deeper learning among students. The event featured

workshops, keynote speakers, and collaborative sessions aimed at equipping educators with innovative strategies and tools. Participants explored themes such as project-based learning, student agency, and authentic assessment, emphasizing the importance of creating engaging and meaningful learning experiences. The summit aimed to inspire educators to transform their teaching approaches to better prepare students for future challenges.

Sessions Attended:

Opening speaker was Chris Emdin <https://chrisemdin.com/>

- **“Reality Pedagogy: Capacities for Imaginative Teaching/Thinking.** We must begin to encourage questions instead of just teaching answers.

📺 How time travel will be invented

Reading and Language Arts: Worksheets Don't Grow Dendrites - Dr. Marcia Tate

According to experts in the field, reading and language arts skills and abilities are best acquired when students are actively engaged in their own learning. This practical, highly-engaging workshop will show you how to do just that: actively engage students in learning to read at the lower grades, and reading to learn at the upper grades.

The content is structured around the standards for teaching reading and language arts. The methodology for teaching those standards comes from our 20 strategies that take advantage of the way all brains learn best. By the time the workshop is over, you will have experienced how to learn vocabulary by drawing it, role playing it, and singing it, along with how to learn comprehension skills through the use of graphic organizers, visualization, and storytelling.

Engaging the Brain: 20 Unforgettable Strategies for Accelerating Learning -

Dr. Marcia Tate

Have you ever wondered why some students cannot understand or recall important content after a 24-hour period? If your students are not learning the way you are teaching them, then you must teach them the way they learn! Experience 20 instructional strategies based on brain research and learning style theory that maximize memory and minimize forgetting. Increase learning for all students when strategies like drawing, metaphor, movement, music, and storytelling are used to teach curriculum objectives and meet international standards. Explore research that shows why these strategies are preferable to others. Ensure that brains retain key concepts – not only for tests, but for life! This workshop has been called both professionally and personally life-changing and lots of fun!

You Can Call Me AI: Unpacking the Robot in your Classroom - Donnie Piercey (2021 Kentucky Teacher of the Year)

Ever tried explaining artificial intelligence to a fifth-grader? Come learn some practical ways to break down AI for both students, teachers, and trainers alike. Whether you work with primary teachers or higher ed, come for some real-world classroom examples, stay for the insightful answers to common teacher questions and concerns about AI. You'll hear real classroom stories and get answers to common concerns about AI in education. Leave empowered with strategies that you can implement immediately into your classroom.

The Artisan Teacher - Mike Rutherford

The Artisan Teacher is an ongoing study of the most recurring pedagogical approaches of particularly successful teachers. Based on more than 40,000 classroom observations, the 23 Artisan Themes represent a comprehensive lexicon

of terms that describe the core skills of excellent instruction. The Artisan Teacher is designed to develop the craft of teaching by enabling teachers to identify and hone their most productive skills—and, to add new, complementary, skills to their repertoire. The Artisan Teacher is also designed to be an aid to administrators, instructional coaches, college professors, and anyone who is engaged in the learning and development of teachers and teaching.

Understanding Implicit Bias - National Underground Railroad

The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center is dedicated to promoting social justice for all. The Implicit Bias Lab provides the knowledge and understanding needed to assess the influence our environment has upon the unconscious decisions that shape our actions. This understanding allows us to identify, confront, and explore our implicit biases – essential steps to becoming stewards of social justice. These in-depth workshops include a 40-minute presentation and 1-20 minutes of discussion/Q&A, providing guidance to identify, confront and explore our implicit biases.

Student Panel: Beechwood Independent Schools, Exploring Defenses of Learning

Come learn from Beechwood ambassadors about the EDGE program and how experiential learning in partnership with businesses and universities prepares K-12 students for the future! These ambassadors will showcase how they engage in Defenses of Learning to provide evidence of growth and showcase their depth of learning!

[Defense Of Learning Presentation For Deeper Learning Summit](#)

KY READS TO SUCCEED SUMMER READING CONFERENCE

The KY Reads to Succeed Summer Reading Conference brought together educators, literacy coaches, and administrators to enhance reading instruction strategies and promote literacy among students. The conference featured expert-led workshops, keynote addresses, and breakout sessions focused on evidence-based reading practices, intervention strategies, and ways to foster a love of reading in students. Participants gained insights into effective literacy programs and received resources to support their efforts in improving reading skills across various grade levels. The event aimed to empower educators to help students achieve reading proficiency and develop a lifelong passion for reading.

SESSIONS ATTENDED:

Understanding the Who, What, When, and How of a Reading Improvement Plan - Jan Sellers (MTSS/Early Literacy Program Consultant, KDE)

A reading improvement plan developed to increase a student's rate of progress toward proficiency in reading is a key component of Kentucky's Read to Succeed Act. This session will focus on the essential components of a reading improvement plan and build an understanding of how the plan fits within the framework of Kentucky's Multi-Tiered System of Supports. Participants will learn how to use data based decision making model to create and monitor a reading improvement plan using the KDE Reading Improvement Plan resource.

System Considerations for Leaders to Support Adolescent Literacy - Melissa Wainwright (MTSS Coordinator, KDE)

As middle and high school teachers engage in structured literacy practices; leaders can likewise make considerations to create a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Framework to improve reading outcomes for adolescents. This session will focus on system consideration to improve Tier 1 instruction and provide Tier 2 and Tier 3 support for striving readers in middle and high school.

Key Actions for meeting the Needs of All K-3 Readers and Writers

Empowering session that will dispel myths, unveil truths, and pave the way for transformative literacy instruction in the early years of education. We will identify and discuss 4 evidence based key actions that are critical to meeting the needs of all K-3 readers and writers. Together, let's ensure that every learner has the foundation they need to thrive as confident and proficient readers and writers.

Shifting from Planning to Preparation with the Unit & Lesson Internalization

In this session, participants will learn how lesson internalization helps teachers deeply understand what students are expected to learning in the unit and lesson, better prepare high quality implementation, and support them to make intentional instructional decisions that support engagement and learning for all students.

SUMMARY OF LEARNING

The 2024 NKCES Deeper Learning Summit, themed "Bridging Equity & Innovation For Success," held on June 10-11 at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, and the KY Reads to Succeed Summer Reading Conference both focused on enhancing teacher pedagogy and practice to improve student outcomes.

At the Deeper Learning Summit, educators engaged in sessions that emphasized innovative strategies such as reality pedagogy, project-based learning, and authentic assessment. Chris Emdin's keynote on "Reality Pedagogy" encouraged teachers to foster imaginative thinking and questioning in students. Dr. Marcia Tate's workshops demonstrated engaging strategies for reading and language arts that leverage brain research to enhance memory and learning. Donnie Piercey's session on artificial intelligence provided practical classroom applications, while Mike Rutherford's "The Artisan Teacher" highlighted the core skills of effective teaching based on extensive classroom observations. The summit also addressed implicit bias and the role of experiential learning in student growth.

The KY Reads to Succeed Summer Reading Conference centered on evidence-based reading practices and literacy instruction. Sessions included Jan Sellers' focus on developing and monitoring reading improvement plans within Kentucky's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework, and Melissa Wainwright's guidance on creating supportive systems for adolescent literacy. Workshops also explored key actions for early literacy and the importance of lesson internalization to ensure high-quality instruction.

Both events underscored the importance of innovative and research-based teaching strategies to foster deeper learning, engagement, and literacy among students, ultimately aiming to bridge equity gaps and prepare students for future success.

Respectfully submitted,

Darla R Payne
Chief Academic Officer

Katina Brown
Director of District Wide Services