

WINTER UPDATE

FROM THE OFFICE OF LEARNING & TEACHING



January, 2019

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Hello from Learning & Teaching

Hello and hope that you are having a great school year. On behalf of the Learning and Teaching Department, I would like to wish all of our Reading Schools Community a happy and healthy 2019. In addition to periodic information regarding our school district's learning and teaching updates and news, we are hoping to provide all with updates that outline the work that is being done to support learning and teaching.



Tweets showcasing the varied learning happening around our district

Did you know?

- ◆ We now have Curriculum Guides for grades K-5 (Reading, Writing, Math and Science) published and our website. <https://www.reading.k12.ma.us/departments/learning-teaching/>
- ◆ We are working on Curriculum Guides for courses at RMHS to be published soon.
- ◆ We will be working on Curriculum Guides for grades 6-8 in the coming months.

Meet your district Professional Development Committee

We are looking for representation on the PD committee from all schools. If you are from Barrows or Joshua Eaton and would like to be a part of this important team, please reach out to Chris Kelley. We meet approximately every other month.

This year's PD committee members are:

- ◇ Birch Meadow-Heidi Murray
- ◇ Coolidge-Pauline Tsoutsis, Laura Warren
- ◇ Killam-Tonia McGuire
- ◇ Parker-Donna Martinson
- ◇ RMHS-Shelley Lynch
- ◇ Wood End-Keri Dinapoli
- ◇ District-Heather Leonard, Chris Kelley, Allison Straker

Please stop by your school PD Committee member's room or email them - we want to hear from you! The questions we have are:

1. How can we support you with PD?
2. What topics are of interest to you?
3. When we offer courses after school, what days work? Do vacation days or Saturdays make sense for course meeting times? What about Summer?



Reading Institute Spring-March 22, 2019

We are hosting our first **Reading Institute-Spring Session** for Reading Public Schools at RMHS. This year's theme will focus on Equity and Diversity. Our Keynote speaker will be the widely known Dena Simmons, Assistant Director of Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence. Dena supports schools in using the power of emotions to create a more compassionate and just society. We are also scheduling breakout sessions that will support our shared goals of building our capacity when we encounter prejudices as well as to provide further time to continue the conversation of how we may best serve all of our students. If you have an idea for a workshop or know of an outside agency that can support our shared learning, please reach out to me at christine.kelley@reading.k12.ma.us



Reading Institute Summer SAVE the DATES-June 24-28

This year, the Learning and Teaching Department will be hosting a variety of 1 or 2 credit courses (15 pdps and 30 pdps) that feature topics required for recertification (i.e. SEI and Special Education) as well as other topics central to district and subject curricula work. Our credits will be provided by Gordon College. More details will follow. If you have a course that you have taught or would like to consider teaching please fill out the form [here](#).

District Curriculum Committee Updates

The following District Wide Committees are up and running.

Professional Development Committee: Information is shared above. Please reach out if you would like to be a part of this team.

Elementary Report Card Committee: Meets bi-monthly this spring in order to update our K-5 Standards Based Report Cards. Members of the team may be seeking your input on our current model as well as soliciting feedback as we develop new drafts. Thank you to members of this important team.

Middle School Social Studies Committee: New Social Studies Frameworks were published late last year. We have decided to focus initially on the middle school curriculum as the new 8th grade standards, focused on Civics, necessitate a significant revision.

Elementary Math Committee: The committee will begin meeting early February to begin the process of mapping mathematics curriculum K-5. The committee sign-ups closed January 25th, committee members will be contacted soon.

Middle School Math Committee: This group will analyze curriculum options to identify top potential curriculum resources to be piloted in 2019-2020 for seventh and eighth grade.



Chris Kelley, Assistant Superintendent @cmkelleyteach

Allison Straker, Humanities Coordinator @strakerREADS, Heather Leonard, STEM Coordinator @STEMReading