



HIGHER | GREATER
expectations | student results

SCSD Teaching & Learning Newsletter

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CAO's Thoughts

Dear SCSD Colleagues,

I hope to see many of you at this weekend's SCSD Winter Summit – Personalizing Learning for Educators and Building Culturally Responsive Schools. The agenda includes powerful keynote speakers and student performances on Friday afternoon and a wide variety of sessions on Saturday. I am confident that there is something compelling for everyone at the Winter Summit!

We are making great strides in Personalized Learning as we continue Winter Sprints and begin our PL soft launch in Wave 3 schools. Just this week, Manami Tezuka, Supervisor of Library Media Services, and principals from ITC, Porter and Seymour presented an overview of our PL work at a Board of Education Work Session. Board members were very impressed by stories of classroom and school-wide implementation, the impact on student learning and testimonials from students and staff.

Superintendent Alicea is championing our PL implementation and its impact on student engagement, goal setting and achievement. He visited Bellevue and Seymour to observe PL in action earlier this week. In each classroom, students were excited to share their learning with the Superintendent. He saw them working collaboratively to support each other as learners and learned about use of SeeSaw to engage parents as partners in their child's learning.

I encourage everyone to enter the [PL Classroom Makeover Challenge](#). Three winners will be selected to receive requested furniture and tools to create more flexible and student-centric learning environments in their classrooms. The deadline for entries is February 16th. Please also take some time to review our new resources, the [PL Bottom Line](#) document and [Tech Tips](#). Tech Tips posters will be printed and sent to all schools for display in classrooms as soon as they are ready.

Keep up the great work you are doing with our students! #SCSDSuccess

Linda D. Mulvey

Chief Academic Officer

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Library Media Services

All the library media specialists have been busy ordering books and supplies for your libraries over the last couple of months. Remember you can make special requests to add to an order if there is a book you would like to see in your school library. Keep an eye out for incoming new books any day now!

Makerspaces and Coding

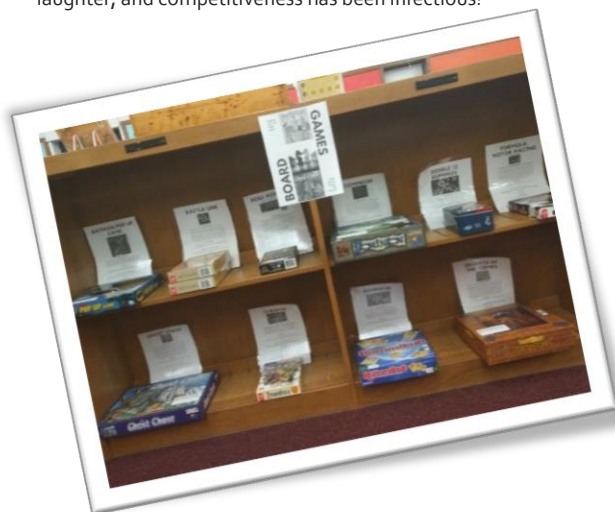
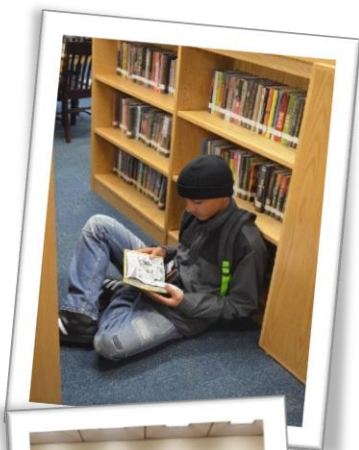
Librarians are working on incorporating Makerspaces and coding into all libraries. Makerspaces are collaborative spaces for students to make, create, explore, learn and share. Talk to your librarian for more details! Here is a quick read from [School Library Journal's Maker Issue](#).

Lincoln Library

Jenn Groff, LMS at Lincoln, hosted "Cards and Cocoa." Students came to the library to sign holiday cards that were sent to overseas military personnel in Bahrain, brought to Loretto Senior Center, or shared with teachers, family, and friends. The card center, with materials donated by an assortment of far flung authors, poets, and librarians as well as Lincoln staff, has been popular with students all year and encourages handwritten communication.

Standards-Aligned Board Game Collection- Roberts Library

The new standards-aligned board game collection at J.T. Roberts aims to help students improve their social skills in addition to increasing creativity, cooperation, problem-solving skills, and more. Students have been incredibly engaged as they work together to learn new games - their curiosity, laughter, and competitiveness has been infectious!



Enrichment

The December ELT enrichment work session had all ten schools' building leads working on their "Problem of Practice" by using the

SCSD Extended Learning Time logic model and recent data from their schools' progress monitoring as the starting point. They developed AIM statements and plans to help accomplish measurable, actionable improvements in enrichment programming.

A universal goal for all programs is to incorporate Accountable Student Talk Practices into winter and spring enrichment classes.

Dr. Weeks held an Earth Science focused showcase before Christmas break. This was a wonderful celebration of Next Generation Science Standards centered enrichment themes for the semester. They are extending use of FOSS kits into each grade level. Feedback has been very positive from teachers and students.

Franklin finished their focus on the Bhutanese/Nepali culture in enrichment classes and have started the new year with a focus on Karen culture. They are working with Syracuse University and the Cornell South East Asia Center on this initiative.

Peaceful Schools is working towards their winter showcases in January (Lincoln, H.W. Smith, Dr. King and H.W. Smith). Redhouse will host a version of Cinderella in a January / February Tour (Danforth, Frazer, Seymour and Van Duyn).

Great work is being accomplished by all!



Social Studies

The [latest issue of the newsletter from the Social Studies Department](#) relays the latest happenings at each grade level for the elementary and secondary level. In addition, we share with you moments of celebrating social studies throughout the district. Please be sure to utilize our hashtag #ssmatters (social studies matters) if you want to join in the conversation on Twitter! The newsletter also has information regarding district wide support in professional development and academic reading on Black history.

Fine Arts

It's an exciting time of year in the Fine Arts Department!

We have a number of music students that were selected to participate in the upcoming Junior High and Senior High All County events in January. These students were judged, in an audition process, to be the top performers at their levels in Onondaga County. They will perform with students from surrounding districts – [check the Fine Arts Calendar](#) for dates and times to check them out!

In addition, we've had several high school students (from Corcoran, Nottingham, and Henninger) receive awards in the annual Scholastics Art contest. Their artwork will be on display with all the award winners at OCC from January 12-March 2, 2018.

We are also excited to present the 33rd annual All City Instrumental Music Festival on February 3rd, at 2 pm at Corcoran High School. Over 300 SCSD students will share their talents with the community at this concert – we hope to see you there!

Below are pictures of Mrs. Miller's Pre K class and her working on the Gold Assessment



Pre-K & Elementary Division

Pre K is going for the Gold

Our Pre K teachers are in the process of implementing the Gold Assessments with all of our Pre K students. The Gold Assessment is an authentic, observational instrument used for assessing children's development from birth through age 8. The Gold Assessment had extensive field-testing; and is a reliable and valid measure. With Gold,

we use observation of children in the context of everyday experiences, which is an effective way to get to know students developmental levels and find out what they know and can do. According to Margo Nish, Director of Pre K for the Syracuse City School District, the Gold Assessment is the most realistic and authentic way to assess our youngest learners. She stated, "The Gold Assessment helps us to look at all aspects of students' developmental levels and to personalize learning experiences." In addition, Director Nish explained that

reports generated from Gold allow teachers to see their students' skills at a glance and gives teachers the ability to have current and accurate data. Our Pre K teachers are going for the Gold, with the new and successful implementation of Gold Assessments!

Personalized Learning

Take a look at our latest [PL Update!](#)

The focus in this issue is Playlists.

Note the PL Rockstars and the Digital Content Superstars. You could be our next PL Rockstar!

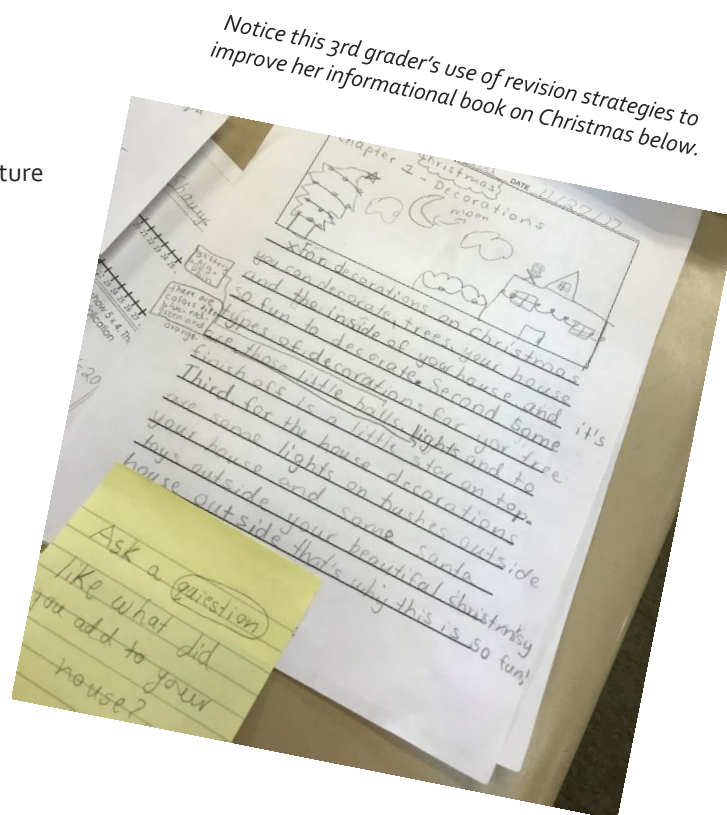
English Language Arts

Grade 3 Writing Spotlight

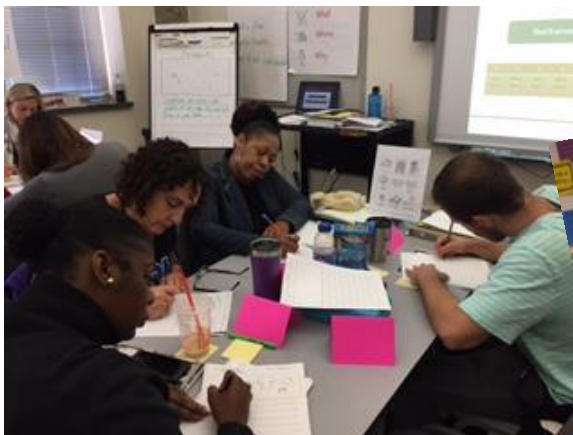
Third graders across Syracuse have been writing up a storm this year with the launch of the writing "Units of Study" resource. Our young writers started the year with a unit on personal narratives. They grew their writing volume and stamina as they learned critical narrative writing skills, like adding dialogue, internal thinking, and tiny actions to their writing. In the second writing unit, third graders moved into informational writing in which they developed pieces around areas of personal expertise. Students learned to write strong leads and to elaborate by asking and answering questions.

Sample self-selected topics have included:

- Slime
- Christmas
- Dave and Buster's
- Arabic Culture
- Roblox
- Rapping
- Cooking



Third grade teachers have worked hard to make this writing launch a great success. A series of full day trainings have provided opportunities for third grade teachers of writing across the district to collaborate and unpack upcoming units. Teachers have created mentor texts, explored assessment tools and practiced teaching lessons during these in-depth trainings. A series of afterschool sessions, with topics such as spelling development, provides teachers with additional opportunities to enhance writing instruction. Feedback from teachers has been very positive and we can't wait to see students produce as they move into an Opinion unit when they produce persuasive speeches!



Published student writing proudly on display at Webster

Professional Development

On January 26th and 27th, the Syracuse City School District, Syracuse Teacher Center and Syracuse Teacher Association will host the 2018 Winter Summit. The theme of the Winter Summit is building culturally responsive schools and personalizing learning for all students to advance equity and excellence in SCSD. Educators will have the opportunity to participate in professional development, collaborate and network in a conference-style venue.

The Winter Summit Kick-Off is on Friday, January 26th from 4-6 pm at PSLA in the Auditorium. The evening reception will include dance performances by students at Frazer and HW Smith, and a choral performance by Frazer's 4th and 5th grade chorus. The evening will continue with two special guests as keynote speakers: Caroline Hill and London Ladd. The Winter Summit continues on Saturday, January 27th from 8:30 am – 1:30 pm, with concurrent sessions running throughout the day at PSLA and ITC. *Advanced registration through Performance Matters is required for all summit sessions.*

Email Francine Grannell at fgrannell@scsd.us or call (315) 435-4244 for more information! See you at the Summit!

SCSD Professional Development

Align - Measure - Innovate



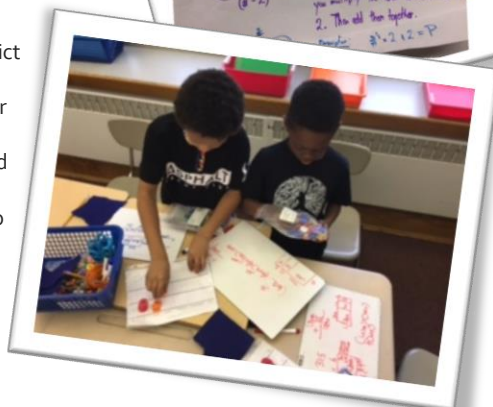
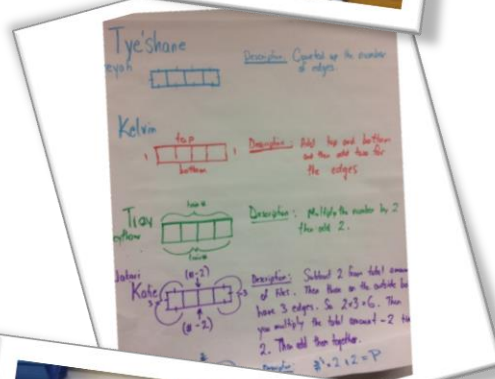
Mathematics

Happy New Year from the Math Department! As I look back on 2017, I feel blessed to work with so many dedicated and thoughtful teachers of mathematics! We have had many amazing math moments in 2017. Some of these include:

-Dr. Weeks School and Grant Middle School sent students to a county-wide mathematics competition and teams from both schools took home a trophy!

-Middle School Math teachers in grades 6-8 participated in several Lesson Labs! Our SCSD teachers hosted lessons with other SCSD teachers observing and discussing effective teacher moves and student thinking! The illustrations to the right are examples of 6th grade students finding several different expressions for one pattern. It was exciting to see! When given the opportunity and support, our SCSD students are OUTSTANDING mathematical thinkers!

-Mathematics students across the district are engaged in personalized learning lessons in which students work with their teacher in small groups, work with peers and hone skills on digital content. I loved walking into this classroom where students were working collaboratively to think through a math problem and showing several models for solving it!



-Fifth grade teachers from across the district have been thinking deeply about the Number and Base Ten standards and the Fraction standards! We have been partaking in professional development and then working our way into the classrooms with lesson labs! We noticed in labs that students who are shy about participating not only engaged in the mathematics, but had some incredible thinking to share with their classmates.

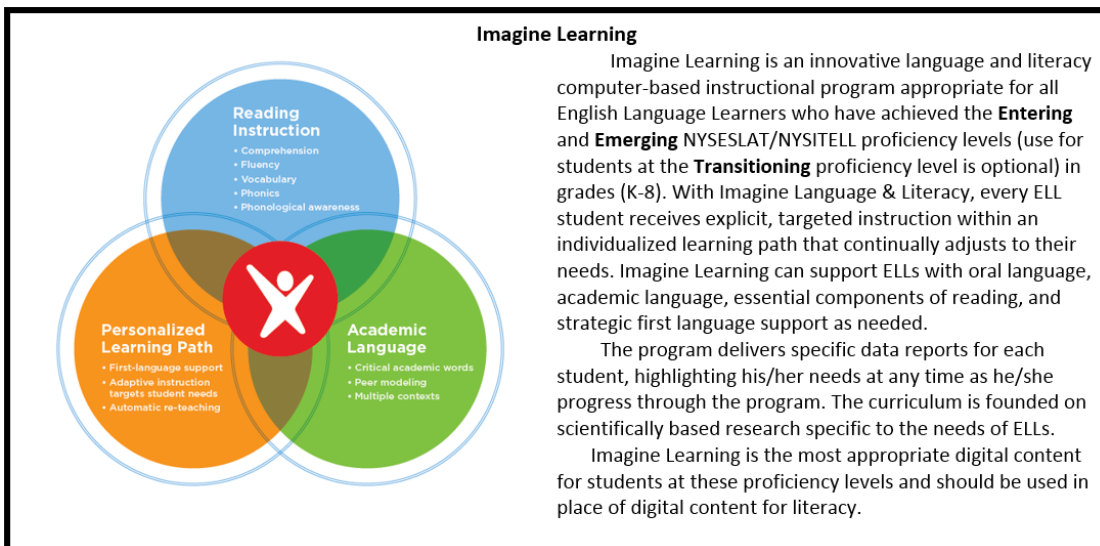
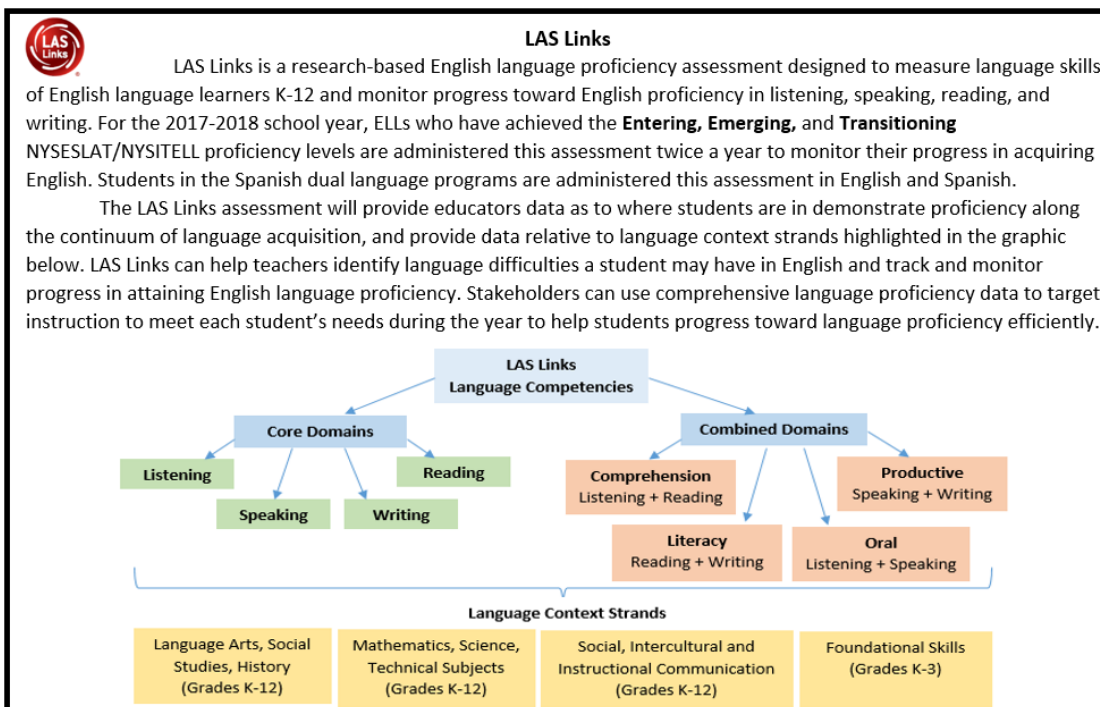
-High School Algebra 1 teachers gathered together to work on ways to support productive struggle in the classroom. Strategies they identified include choosing tasks that are accessible to all of the students, ensuring a level of understanding of the context during the launch and planning for assessing and advancing questions to ask students based on the solution path students are utilizing. Check out a high school task lesson plan with assessing and advancing questions [here](#).

Finally, in 2017 educators and community members from across the Syracuse District gathered to create a [3-Year Mathematics Action Plan](#). This plan has been a guiding document for this school year. Be on the lookout for future opportunities to be a part of moving the plan forward in SCSD!

I look forward to continued teaching and learning in 2018! Share your awesome work on Twitter and be sure to tag the Mathematics Department (@SCSDMath).

ENL

The ENL, World Language and Bilingual Education Department promotes the value of knowing more than one language and ensures that the needs of our language learners are met on a daily basis. We are committed to strengthening our language programs and supporting students acquiring a new language, to become bilingual or multilingual. The two initiatives below are new this year and can support language learning and progress monitoring a student's English language development.



Career and Technical Education (CTE)

The Career and Technical Education department held its annual CTE Expo on January 17th and 18th at PSLA at Fowler. The Expo showcased all 26 of our state-of-the-art CTE programs, providing SCSD 8th graders with the opportunity to meet students and teachers from each program and learn more about the great high school pathways available to them. SCSD parents and community members also got a chance to see the exciting things happening in the SCSD!

This year's event featured several new CTE programs. Business Technology is now offered at all of our high schools with the exception of ITC. Computer Information Systems and Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems are new P-TECH programs being offered at PSLA at Fowler. P-TECH programs are CTE pathways that allow students to simultaneously obtain their high school diploma, earn an associate's degree, and obtain work-based learning experiences. Thanks one and all for making this another successful CTE Expo!

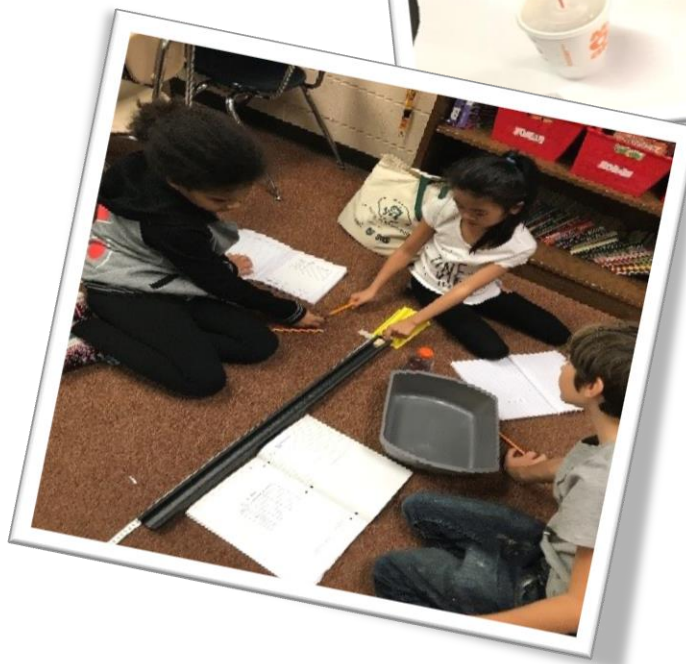
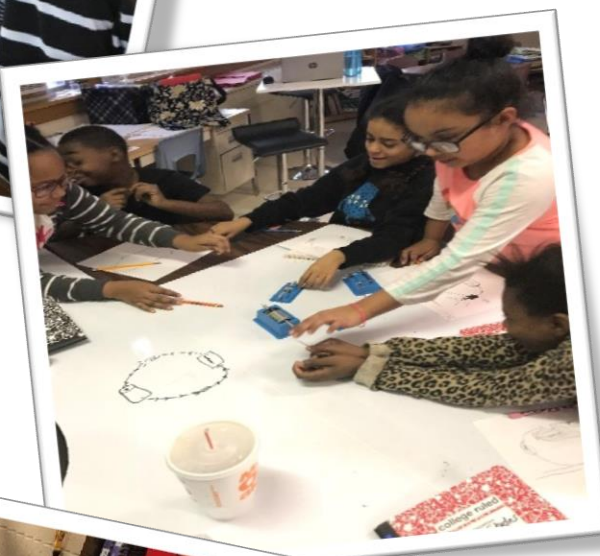
Science & Technology

The STEM team recently established a Strategic Leadership Team which will help facilitate the implementation of the newly adopted New York State Science Learning Standards (aka NYSSLS). This team is made up of several science and technology teachers across the district, in grades 6-12. These teachers will assist us in providing other science and technology teachers with the opportunity for collaboration and decision making in the implementation of pacing and curriculum of the NYSSLS. They will assist us in raising awareness throughout the district, of the new standards, and participate in creating the transition and implementation plan.

Congratulations to your leadership team members!

Name	School
Ryan Terpening	Corcoran
Brittany Sgambellone	Danforth Middle School
Melinda O'Connor	Ed Smith
Nadia Essi	Ed Smith/Frazer
Sue Curran	Elmcrest
Jeffrey Abbott	ELMS
Ashley Krakau	Frazer
Juanita Dyer	Grant Middle School
Kate Rood	Henninger
Melanie Pelcher	Henninger
Patrick Dehm	Huntington Pk-8 School
Beth Walsh	HW Smith
Anthonia Joseph	Nottingham
Jaime Rodriguez	Nottingham
Rebecca Wilk	Nottingham
Thomas Procopio	Nottingham
Joseph Smith	PSLA
Melissa Walls	PSLA

FOSS science teaching is in full swing! All 4th grade teachers have been using the district's new science kit program, and have been teaching the Energy unit. The level of engagement in the classrooms has certainly increased! It is exciting to see the students enjoying science learning in their classrooms.



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Inquiries regarding the District's non-discrimination policies should be directed to:

Civil Rights Compliance Officer

Syracuse City School District

725 Harrison Street • Syracuse, NY 13210

(315) 435-4131

Email: CivilRightsCompliance@scsd.us