

Science Vertical Team Leadership Meeting
Grades 6-12
Tuesday, Feb. 10th, 2009

Present: Bob Huot, Brenda Martinson, William Ness, Sara Johnson, and Chris Ann Johnson.

1. The evaluations from the Jan. 26th, 2009 vertical team workshop were reviewed and discussed. Overall the feedback was positive with requests for developing a “wiki” for the district 742 science family as well as in specific curricular areas, more collaboration time, and time to work with the MN science standards to help coordinate them with the curriculum.
2. Science Museum of Minnesota Science House – Bob H. continues to work on this. At the current time it appears there will be funding to send 5 teachers to the science house with transportation and dinner costs covered. Bob H. will be contacting the district science teachers to find out if anyone would like to attend.
3. MAP testing in Science (NWEA)
 - a. William Ness shared how Riverwoods is using this test and the type of feedback they receive.
 - b. The group then discussed the implications of implementing the test district wide. Positives include detailed and immediate feedback, correlated to the state science standards, useful in directing students to appropriate courses, and computer based. Negatives include the cost of the test, available computer lab time, time that it would take from instruction.
4. District Wide Science Assessment
 - a. The leadership group will investigate other sources for pre/post-science assessments before our next meeting.
 - b. It is possible that we could develop our own assessments correlated to the science standards that would also provide us immediate feedback.
5. Wiki
 - a. The leadership group will set up a district wide science “wiki” at our next meeting. The science “wiki” will provide a communication link between district science teachers as well as access to curricular information.
6. MN revised Science Standards
 - a. The revised science standards are currently in the hands of the Commissioner of Education awaiting approval.
 - b. Discussion took place about setting up a process/plan for the next school year to help the district science teachers align the revised standards to our curriculum.
7. NSTA Regional Conference – Minneapolis, MN – Oct. 29-31, 2009
 - a. The group discussed developing a budget proposal to submit to the curriculum office in order to send science teachers to this conference.
 - b. Suggestion is to send one science teacher per grade level/building (7-12th) to this conference. We will coordinate with the elementary science teachers and add their request to this proposal.
 - c. Chris Ann J. will investigate the registration fees for this conference.
8. Next meeting: To be determined for sometime in March 2009. Meeting to be scheduled with the elementary science leadership team.