

Superintendent's Bulletin

"Advancing Student Learning through Customized Support"

December 6, 2013

TO: ALL STAFF MEMBERS
FROM: PEGGY DININNO
SUBJ: Updates

SUPERINTENDENT'S BULLETIN

This Bulletin is published periodically to provide staff with updates regarding vision, district goals, curriculum, and strategic planning. Employees are encouraged to read and reflect on topics shared in this bulletin.

District Web Page

Please be advised that we consider the district website to be a valuable tool for sharing and communicating important information. Staff is advised to visit the site regularly. Please review presentations and memos shared on the site in an effort to assist you with better understanding the district's mission, vision, and initiatives. Thank you!

Customization

"RSD's Customized Soup"

Focusing on ways to personalize and customize education for our students avails us with the opportunity to consider each student's needs and to design instructional support that is meaningful and relevant. Riverview's small class sizes and unique ability to mentor, support and provide flexible

programming are characteristics that make us unique. **Genuine customization** includes the use of data analysis, professional staff collaboration, communication with families, clearly articulated learning goals, the creation of customized learning plans, a dedication to monitoring students' learning, and the willingness to adapt and make use of different resources to meet student interests, strengths, and needs.

Professional Collaboration

I would like to thank members of the Professional Development Committee for their assistance with providing meaningful input towards the creation of our new menu approach towards professional development. It is our goal to provide differentiated professional development to meet educator needs in the same manner that teachers provide differentiated and customized support to our students.

Learning Goals

We continue to focus our efforts on the importance of providing our students with realistic learning goals. Please remember to write a student friendly learning goal and refer to it at the

beginning of every lesson. Asking students if the goal has been accomplished at the end of each lesson assists them with reflection and is an excellent formative assessment tool that can be used by teachers to direct instruction for the next lesson. Ultimately, this helps us to customize learning for our students

Resources

I would like to personally commend our staff for their willingness to use the following resources as they create and implement customized programs for our students: On-Hands Schools, RCEP Template / Work Plans, 2 Hour Delay Collaboration and Planning Time, Parent Conferences, Customized Fish Bowl, WPA Mentoring Partnership, Arts Collaborative, Input Learned at Panel Discussions, Reading Series Curricular Analysis and Pilot, Teacher-led Professional Development Sessions, K-12 Guidance Plan Development and Colleague Support/Counsel.

21st Century Workforce and 2007 Alumni Panel

Discussion/Luncheon

Thank you to all of the students, staff, teachers, workforce representatives and Riverview graduates from the class of 2007 who took the time to participate

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in Panel Discussions this year. We look forward to utilizing the information we learned in order to make meaningful adjustments to what we are doing and to meet the future skill set needs of our students.

Pride, Perseverance, and Extra

During our first Professional Development Day in August, I shared many points related to Thomas Friedman's book "That Used to Be US" (2011). Friedman emphasized the need for today's students to enter the world with skill sets that will assist them with carving their initials into their work, developing a strong and confident work ethic, and enhancing their ability to think creatively and add that "extra". These skills, according to Friedman, will be needed in order to compete for jobs with people from all over the world. More details related to the importance of this topic are provided in a Power Point presentation located on the left side of the district's main website and in the curriculum section of the website. For more information, please take a few minutes to better familiarize yourself with the Power Point.

Pride

The Artisan...

Thank you for taking the time to consider ways to engage students in learning experiences that assist them with "**carving their initials**" into their work - like the proud artisan who pays attention to the details of his or her work in order to provide a personalized and well-polished product. This principle also aligns nicely with our new **Riverview Pride and Behavior Code**. In fact, the 2007 graduates from our panel discussion indicated that our small class sizes and the extra-curricular opportunities that we provide to our kids are key support structures to the development of student confidence and building the foundation that supports one's ability to be successful in today's workforce.

Perseverance

The Immigrant...

Thank you for considering ways to engage students in learning using the same approach that early immigrants who came to our country used. As Friedman mentioned, early immigrants to our country worked hard, persevered, and worked as if nothing was owed to them. Our panel discussion participants clearly indicated that a strong work ethic is

critical for success in a 21st century work environment.

Our Extra

The Waitress...

Customizing education for students models for them all of the "extra" that you give. Thank you for considering ways to engage students in learning through the same approach that the waitress in Thomas Friedman's book "That Used to Be Us" (2011) did as she gave the little bit of extra with anything she had control over in order to provide a genuine and high quality service or product to her customers. I am proud of the "extra" that our staff gives to our students through mentoring, the creation of RCEPs, and the other things you all do for our kids! ☺

RCEPs

"**Genuine**" and "**sincere**" are two terms that are important when it comes to creating and implementing RCEPs. The RCEP need not always be a sophisticated document. It is meant to assist our educational team with providing an individualized and sincere plan for addressing student needs. Customization and personal attention that is genuine and meaningful is what every parent wants for their child. ***If given the opportunity, most parents will seek out schools where this is***

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provided. Thank you for all that you do as you collect information on our kids, analyze the information, and use it to create meaningful and relevant plans to assist our students with feeling important and preparing them for a successful career in life. YOUR effort truly makes a difference.

Department Brochures
Finding ways to share the great things that Riverview has to offer students is critical to our sustainability as a district. The **School District Brochure** created over the past summer was sent to local realtors, libraries, and other places throughout the boroughs where people may want to inquire more about the district. During a personal visit with management at the Edgewater community, brochures were also shared. I would like to thank all of our employees who assisted us with creating department brochures. It was rewarding to witness the manner in which the development of the brochures served as a tool to provide collaboration and reflection for each department. Final brochures will be distributed to interested families based on their questions and their needs. For example, if a family moves into the community with three

children and one child is interested in music, one in athletics, and the other in the sciences, the family will be provided with a brochure from each department and encouraged to attend RSD. ***This communication tool is a great way to inform others about the values of an RSD education and encourage students not to attend a charter/cyber or private school.*** Information stands, with brochures, will soon be available in each school building office and at other strategic locations in the community.

New Software UPDATE
We appreciate everyone's patience and support as we strive to improve upon the manner in which we conduct business and are able to obtain data for our use and for requirements related to state and federal mandates.

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK
Employees are reminded to check the district website for any updates or adjustments made to the Riverview School District Employee Handbook. Pages 12-13 serve as an excellent resource for locating the proper person when guidance or direction is needed.

SCHOOL VISITORS

Employees are reminded to wear their RSD I.D. badges at all times. Please ask visitors to show you their Visitor Pass after they sign in at the main office in each building. If a visitor is in the building and does not have a pass, or you do not recognize the individual, please direct that person to the office and/or contact school building office staff for immediate assistance. Thank you.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS

If you wish to be contacted through the Emergency calling system when school is delayed or closed, please be sure that you have provided Elissa Miller with an appropriate telephone number. Notifications of delays and closings will also be provided on the district website and on local television stations. Staff should refer to the Employee Handbook for details regarding processes to follow when school is unexpectedly delayed or closed.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

There is a need for substitute employees, as well as a Varsity Football and Volleyball Coach and a Musical Director. Please contact Linda Tamburro for details.