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schools and higher education advancing public education across the P-20 spectrum

Quarterly Report | Year 3, Quarter 3



INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

MCPS

43 teachers from across MCPS participated in the IB Summer Institute (20-22 August) at the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences.

Franklin Elementary School faculty are in the process of aligning their new English Language Arts curriculum with the IB Primary Years Programme of Inquiry as they refine it.

At Big Sky High School, there are 20 first-year and 3 second-year IB Diploma students, with over 100 juniors and 90 seniors have enrolled in IB courses, a number of which will help them earn college credit.

At Hellgate High School, 8 seniors are working toward their IB Diploma, and 875 students, or 75% of the total students, are enrolled in IB courses. As more teachers become IB trained, the number of IB course offerings—and student enrollments in them—will grow.

University of Montana

The third IB cohort of 10 students are enrolled in the second course of the three course sequence: C&I.536: Assessment and Learning in International Baccalaureate Programs. Dr. Lucila Rudge, is teaching the course as an adjunct instructor from a distance using Zoom video conferencing technology with co-instructors IB instructors Jeff Kessler and Cameron Johnson.



DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION

MCPS

Paxson Elementary School adopted a new bilingual language arts curriculum: ReadyGen's Biliteracy Pathways. All teachers received training on this program and are in the process of implementing it this academic year.

Teachers at Paxson Elementary School and Washington Middle School continue to work together to create a seamless transition for students who continue instruction in Spanish and English as they move from fifth to sixth grade.

University of Montana

Drs Brayko and Requena continue to support UM Spanish students as they serve as Spanish language coaches at Paxson Elementary School's Spanish Club.

Dr. Brayko is expanding Indigenous language partnerships across the state. In addition to working with with Arlee Public Schools and Nk^wuswm, the language focused tribal school in Salish Country. Students in Arlee are teaching UM candidates basic Salish words, and UM candidates have created Salish resources for teachers in MCPS. Brayko is facilitating the creation of an additional partnership with a UM alum between schools in Sidney and Nakona/Dakota language teachers in Poplar on the Fort Peck Reservation.

Dr. Brakyko has been working with Paxson Elementary School and Washington Middle School in rolling out Spanish language instruction in the middle grades.



GLOBAL
COMPETENCE

MCPS

MCPS school staff at Hellgate and Big Sky High Schools coordinated with the Franke Global Leadership Initiative at UM to send 28 students to the Global Innovation Summer Institute at the end of July.

University of Montana

The Franke Global Leadership Initiative (GLI), in collaboration with Blackstone LaunchPad, has redesigned the Global Innovation Summer Institute, was held at UM in the last two weeks of July. 28 MCPS students from Big Sky, Hellgate, Sentinel, Willard, Seeley Swan, and Hamilton high schools worked with UM and MCPS faculty to develop solutions for complex social problems. Student teams presented their solutions to roughly 70 members of the Missoula community, outlining the research they conducted, important stakeholders, the value propositions in play, and the global context for their solutions. 70% of students who participated noted that they wanted to continue working on their projects as well as learn more about the Franke Global Leadership Initiative at UM.



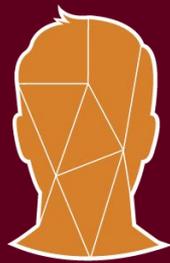
STEM

MCPS

Chief Charlo Elementary School became a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts) school as the 2018-2019 academic year began. Incorporating Project Lead the Way modules into its STEM curriculum, Chief Charlo Elementary playing with different ways for students and teachers to emphasize problem-solving and curiosity.

University of Montana

Dr. Lisa Blank retired from UM in August 2018. The Department of Teaching and Learning is in the process of recalibrating its faculty's teaching assignments and re-committing to incorporating Project Lead the Way (PLTW) into all of its science education courses.



ARTS
INTEGRATION

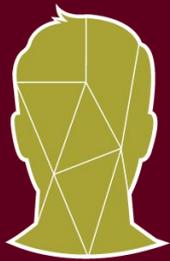
MCPS

Chief Charlo Elementary School became a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts) school as the 2018-2019 academic year began. To ensure that faculty are prepared to fully implement a STEAM curriculum, UM Dance Professor, Karen Kaufmann, provided training for all 22 faculty that integrate math and movement. MCPS will be carefully following the effects of a STEAM curriculum on student outcomes (407 students total) over this academic year.

University of Montana

Following the *Arts Transform Communities* conference held in the spring, UM teaching artists, in collaboration with SPARK! and Arts Missoula's Global and Cultural Affairs council, sponsored a professional development workshop (15 Sept. 2018) for area teachers in visual art, music, theatre, dance, and creative writing. The workshop, *Embracing Differences to Make a Difference: Building Culturally Competent Classrooms through Arts Integration* attracted 65 teachers, who earned renewal credits for the workshop.

Creative Pulse completed its summer course with 31 classroom teachers from around the region. In this course, teachers learn how to integrate a range of art forms into their teaching practice.



EARLY INTERVENTIONS

MCPS

Rattlesnake Elementary School continued Parent Teacher Home Visits with its incoming kindergarten students this fall.

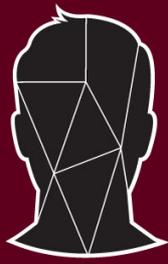
MCPS launched an early kindergarten program for 4 year-olds in the fall of 2018. There are three classes in this program, which are housed at the Jefferson Early Childhood Center.

In collaboration with the Headwaters Foundation, MCPS began working with Missoula community parents and agencies to explore the possibility of using a universal screener for school readiness for incoming kindergarten students.

University of Montana

Dr. Atkins continues to collaborate with Erin Ellis, a doctoral student and seasoned teacher at Hellgate Elementary School. In this quarter, they have revised the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, and have worked with MCPS, Hellgate Elementary Schools, and Darby Public Schools to begin using the tool with incoming kindergarten students. Atkins and Ellis anticipate being able to field test and validate the revised assessment with kindergarten students in the 2018-2019 academic year.

This work on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment will be incorporated into the Early Childhood programs at UM.



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES

MCPS

MCPS hosted a workshop and kick-off event entitled, “Bet On Us,” with PLC expert Ken Williams. Teachers’ collective efficacy and sharing of best practices is a focus for all district-wide and school-wide professional learning communities.

University of Montana

The University team began analysing the focus group interview data collected from a group of teachers at a local school site on their professional development experiences in late May. Initial findings will guide the development of a survey that will be administered to a broad group of teachers in the 2018-2019 academic year.



UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING

MCPS

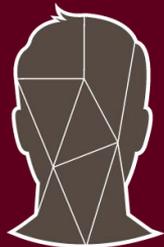
MCPS purchased district-wide license for Read Write Google, which allows opening up text-to-speech capability for the entirety of the district's students and staff. With this tool, students and staff will be able to fully access curricula through its Bookshare platform. Additionally, the MCPS website has been optimized for Read Write Google and accessibility standards.

University of Montana

Dr. Morgen Alwell taught C&I.518: Inclusion and Collaboration online to 17 graduate students has a mix of early childhood, elementary, and secondary teacher candidates. One student noted, "If we make our instruction 'adjustable' to suit the needs of ALL of our students and dismiss the ideal of an 'average' student or an 'average' classroom, the meaning of general education will be allowed to change in positive ways that it never has before."

Dr. Alwell continues to provide professional development training for 22 teachers at St. Joseph School in Missoula on UDL, differentiated instruction, and co-teaching.

In collaboration with Dr. Kate Brayko, Amy Kinch (Faculty Development Office), and Dr. Adrea Lawrence, Dr. Alwell is creating professional development opportunities for UM faculty in UDL and active learning.



BLENDED
LEARNING

MCPS

MCPS has reached its goals for Blended Learning in SHAPE 2.0.

University of Montana

The Montana Digital Academy (MTDA) has reached its goals in SHAPE 2.0.

The Western Interstate for Higher Education (WICHE) recognized MTDA with a WOW award for its outstanding work in digital learning through its EdReady program.



Publications

In Press

Brayko, Kate. "Trying on Their Shoes: Empathy as Pedagogy for Teachers of English Language Learners." *Literary Voices*.

Rudge, Lucila and Gyde, Althea. "What if We Can't Apply What We Have Learned? Reflections of an IB Science Teacher Candidate." *International Journal of Teacher Education and Professional Development*.

Conferences

Martin, Adele and Brayko, Kate. (under review). *Language, Power, and Genius: When Young Students Become Indigenous Language Teachers of Non-Native Pre-Service Teachers*. Literacy Research Associate Conference.

Rudge, Lucila and Gyde, Althea. (2018). *What if IBEC Candidates Can't Apply What They Have Learned?* Paper presented at the 2018 International Baccalaureate Educator Certificate Conference, Bath, UK.