



PARAMOUNT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN PARAMOUNT SCHOOLS

# Update on K-5 and 6-8 Language Arts and ELD Implementation

Board of Education Meeting

March 13, 2017

Ruth Pérez, Superintendent

Deborah Stark, Asst. Superintendent



# Presentation Purpose

Provide update on ELA initiatives implemented in 2016-17:

- K-5 McGraw Hill's *Reading Wonders*
- 6-8 *Amplify ELA*

Outline plan to expand Amplify ELA to all middle school classes in 2017-18



# K-5: Reading Wonders

During the first year of transitioning from Open Court, the following were focus areas:

- Support use of a new Language Arts and ELD program with four days of professional development and curriculum guides specific to their grade level.
- Allow time for teachers to become familiar with the new materials for ELA and ELD.
- Continue to use Thinking Maps and writing as an integral part of Language Arts learning.



# Year 1 Progress

- K-5 teachers noted the usefulness of the new materials and professional development in their responses on a school survey.
- 88% of teachers surveyed stated that that professional development on new textbook supported their use of the new ELA/ELD materials; over half of these rated it as "highly valuable." Comments from teachers include:

*"Wonders textbook and Wonder Works program have been resources continually used during integrated and designated ELD."*

*"The training I have received has helped me plan and instruct my students."*



# Students and Teachers in Action



Grade 1 teachers collaborating on Foundational Skills



Students using leveled readers during differentiated small group instruction



## 6-8: Amplify ELA

- In spring, 2016 an all digital Language Arts program, Amplify ELA, was adopted for middle school. To assure effective implementation, an “early launch” began this year in 12 classes using class sets of Chromebooks.
- Parents of students in the early launch classes were invited to an informational meeting in January.





The purpose of a limited scale, early launch of Amplify ELA was to:

- Learn how to use an all digital platform for instruction.
- Identify technical issues that need to be addressed so they can be resolved before full implementation in 2017-18.
- Develop a cadre of expert teachers at each school who can serve as resources for other teachers when the program is fully implemented in 2017-18.



# Support for Early Launch

- Teachers participated in three days of professional development on how to use Amplify, including digital citizenship.
- Amplify consultant modeled a lesson with students while teachers observed and debriefed what they saw.
- Monthly after school debrief meetings were held to discuss what was working, issues that need to be addressed.





# Insights from Teachers

Students are engaged, actively collaborating with their peers, and developing listening skills throughout the sharing and spotlights by providing their peers with constructive feedback.

*–Patricia Real, 6-8 SDC teacher, Paramount Park*

Students are definitely diving much deeper into the readings and creating responses that have more textual evidence and more in-depth elaborations. Students are doing a great job supporting their thoughts with quotes from the story and are much more engaged and excited about getting into the readings every day.

*–Erin Marsh, 6th and 7th grade teacher, Alondra*

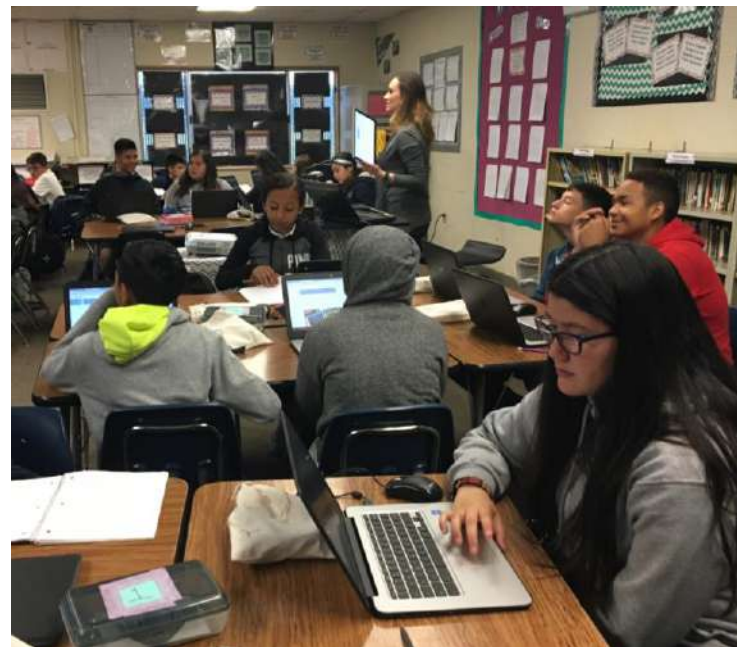


# PARAMOUNT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREERS



Teacher David Carser uses a Microsoft Surface to during instruction in his ELA class at Alondra.



Eighth grade students start working on the Vocabulary App at Hollydale.



# Insights and Lessons Learned

What is working well?

- The curriculum is engaging, supports student progress in reading and writing and makes it easier for teachers to provide feedback.

What will we improve for next year?

- Pacing will be adjusted to allow more time for teachers to incorporate Write from the Beginning and Beyond strategies into writing lessons.
- Suggestions for implementing specific lessons will be included in the curriculum guide based on what teachers learned this year.



# Projected Cost Licenses, Materials, Training

Material	Quantity	Cost
ELA/ELD Licenses	\$20 per student per year for period of 5 years	\$386,000
Print materials	Anthology – one time cost Novels-one time cost Workbooks - annual/consumable	\$29,000 \$23,000 \$13,000
Professional development	4 days training with consultants 5 on site coaching sessions with consultants	\$20,000
Total (includes licenses for all 6-8 students for 5 years)		\$471,000



# Next Steps: K-5 Language Arts

Action	Timeframe
• Refine curriculum guides	Summer, 2017
• Provide professional development on writing for K-5 teachers	August, 2017
• Continue grade level Language Arts/ELD institutes	2017-18



# Next Steps: 6-8 Language Arts

Action	Timeframe
• Coordinate purchase of Chromebooks with district technology plan.	Spring, 2017
• Submit contract for approval for 2017 - 18	March/April, 2017
• Write curriculum guides to support implementation.	June, 2017
• Provide professional development for middle school ELA, ELD and SDC teachers.	August, 2017 and 2017-18



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# Coming Soon!

- A recommendation for new ELA/ELD textbooks and materials for preschool, Transitional Kindergarten and high school courses will be brought to the March 27th Board meeting.

2016-17: K-5 and 6-8 Language Arts and ELD

2017-18: Preschool, TK and grades 9-12 Language Arts and ELD