



Riverview School District

The Riverview School District serves the communities of Oakmont and Verona through its mission to commit to the success of all students in the areas of academics, a safe learning environment, customized learning and opportunities.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT NEWS

Student Achievement /Customized Services Newsletter

Winter 2015-2016

Mathematics Curriculum Review and Focus on 5-8 Math

This year, we will be focusing on Math district-wide. Our teachers and administrators have been working to analyze data as we target student needs in Math, particularly in the transition grades of 5th through 8th grade.

Throughout the first semester, our Math Teachers have been working together and as grade level teams to analyze and map our curricula in alignment with the new PA Common Core Standards using OnHand Schools Curriculum Mapping Technology. In the second semester, we will work to create vertical alignment across the Mathematics Curriculum.



*“What sculpture is
to a block of marble,
education is to the
human soul.”*

-Joseph Addison



In This Issue:

- Focus on Math Grades 5-8
- STEAM and New Opportunities through ABC CREATE at Riverview Jr/Sr High School
- Assessment Information

2015 ASSESSMENT WINDOWS

PSSA

English Language Arts

April 11-15, 2016

Grades 3-8

Mathematics

April 18-22, 2016

Grades 3-8

Science

April 25-29, 2016

Grades 4 & 8

Make-Up Tests

May 2-6, 2016

KEYSTONE EXAM

Winter 2015-2016

Algebra I (December 10-11)

Biology (January 6-7)

Literature (January 11-12)

Spring 2016

Algebra I, Biology,
Literature (May 16-27)

Riverview and ABC CREATE

Funded by the Grable Foundation, ABC CREATE is the name of the Allegheny-Kiski Best Practices Collaborative CREATE Lab Satellite Network Hub. Our vision is to empower students and educators across the Alle-Kiski Valley by encouraging a culture of sharing best-practice through processes, roles and a support infrastructure for over a dozen school districts.

Serving as a CREATE Lab Satellite Network Regional Hub, the Allegheny-Kiski Best Practices Collaborative will contribute to the creation of fluid learning pathways among diverse CREATE Lab projects. As a Satellite Network partner, the ABC will enjoy access to creative technology and best practices developed and validated by the four schools of education comprising the CREATE Lab Satellite Network.

The ABC geographic concentration and large scale participation (starting with six public school districts and doubling the number within 3 years) holds promise for regional impact that goes beyond school walls.

The project focus over a three-year period centers on meaningful technology integration across all content areas by establishing a CREATE Lab Satellite Network Regional Hub with Penn State New Kensington serving in a coordinating role.

(<http://www.abccreate.org/>, 2015)

Key Shifts of PA Common Core Mathematics

The Common Core State Standards for Mathematics build on the best of existing standards and reflect the skills and knowledge students will need to succeed in college, career, and life.

Common Core Mathematics Standards include the following:

1. Greater Focus on Fewer Topics
2. Coherence: Linking Topics and Thinking Across Grades
3. Rigor: Pursue Conceptual Understanding, Procedural Skills and Fluency, and Application with Equal Intensity

(<http://www.corestandards.org/other-resources/key-shifts-in-mathematics/>,

Algebra Keystone Exam and Grade 8 PSSA



Some of our students take Algebra in their 8th Grade year, an opportunity made possible by the Math Pathways we offer here at Riverview School District. This course requires students to take an end of course exam, called the Keystone Exam, in Algebra. In 8th Grade, our students also take the PSSA PA Core Assessment in ELA and Math. A close analysis of our recent PA Core Assessment Data revealed that sometimes, our students were performing well on the Keystone and achieving a passing score, but not performing as well on the PSSA. To address this concern, our Secondary Math teachers have been closely examining our curriculum, and the PSSA and Keystone Eligible Content taught to determine how we can increase align-

ment and adjust pacing to increase student achievement. This is just a small component of the important curriculum work our teachers are engaged in this year as part of the Curriculum Review in Math.

What Topics Will Require a Greater Focus?

- Grades K–2: Concepts, skills, and problem solving related to addition and subtraction
- Grades 3–5: Concepts, skills, and problem solving related to multiplication and division of whole numbers and fractions
- Grade 6: Ratios and proportional relationships, and early algebraic expressions and equations
- Grade 7: Ratios and proportional relationships, and arithmetic of rational numbers
- Grade 8: Linear algebra and linear functions

The new focus areas at each grade level will help students gain strong foundations, including a solid understanding of concepts, a high degree of procedural skill and fluency, and the ability to apply the math they know to solve problems inside and outside the classroom.