

Arcadia January 2023 Newsletter



January 2023

Dear Arcadia Family,

I hope you had a great winter break and were able to spend time with family and friends. We're excited to be back at school and are looking forward to teaching our students for the second half of the year.

The following are items you need to know.

RISE Goal Setting Meetings

I began meeting with 5th grade students after Thanksgiving break to review how they performed on the RISE test last year in English Language Arts, Math and Science. When meeting with them, I reviewed their scores from last year and set new goals for them to work towards for this year's test. If you have a 5th grade student, you should have received and reviewed a goal setting sheet. The students were instructed to bring the signed goal setting sheet back to me so they can keep them in their data notebooks.

As we did last year, we will have 3-5th grade students take RISE practice tests every week until the real testing begins in the spring. After students take their practice test, their teachers will analyze the data and determine what concepts need to be retaught. Reteaching will take place in the middle of the week in preparation for the next week's practice test. Students have been challenged by

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me to do their very best on the practice tests to work towards their goals.

Last month, I started meeting with 4th grade students and will continue this month. Then, I will meet with 3rd graders and finish up towards the end of the month. If you have a 3rd, 4th or 5th grade student, please encourage him or her to take the practice tests and the actual RISE test seriously and do his or her very best.

Attending school regularly is vital for student test taking success. It is also important that students eat healthy foods, exercise regularly and get adequate sleep. Turning off electronics and limiting screen time is also helpful. Please encourage your student to practice Math facts and read for at least 20 minutes a day before or after school. Also, vocabulary building (pointing out new words) is very helpful for all students but especially important for multilingual learners.

If you have any questions about RISE testing, RISE goal setting or the practice tests, please let me know. You can access other RISE practice tests for your child to take at home under your supervision by going [here](#).

Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) Goal Progress

Academics

Goal 1: Achieve a 3% gain on the RISE test in English Language Arts, Math and Science.

Progress Report:

- As stated above, 3rd – 5th grade students are taking practice tests every week.
- Teachers are reteaching concepts that students have not yet grasped.
- Students are getting used to the online testing format.
- I am setting goals with individual students to work towards when they take the final test at the end of the year.

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- Teachers are focusing on core standards and are planning differentiated lessons to address learning gaps they can work with students on in small groups.
- Students are tracking their progress in their data notebooks they will show you at SEPs next month.
- All students are using Amira (a computer program for Reading) to help them with English Language Arts and i-Ready My Path which is a computer program designed to help students fill in learning gaps in Math at their individual level.
- Teachers are using the newly revised Science standards to help students learn Science concepts they need to know when they take the RISE test.

Goal 2: Achieve a five point gain on the overall scale score for the WIDA assessment. (The WIDA Assessment is a test that all multilingual learners must take every year in March.)

Progress Report:

- Teachers are focusing on effective general education instruction (Tier 1 instruction) to ensure they are providing the necessary interventions and supports to MLL students (and, really, all students).
- Teachers are planning and facilitating collaborative conversations among students to increase verbal participation of MLLs.
- Paraprofessionals are working with students under the direction of the teacher to provide instructional support to MLLs who are struggling.
- Teachers are focusing on student outcomes in their professional learning communities (PLCs) and figuring out what to reteach and how to reinforce concepts to students learning English.
- Teachers are focusing on the skill of Speaking as this skill was the lowest on the 2021-22 WIDA test results. They are encouraging all students to speak in full sentences and are using technology (Flipgrid) to record students to give them immediate feedback.

Social Skills & Dispositions

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Goal: Reduce office referrals by 10%.

Progress Report:

- Teachers are recognizing students who follow the school rules by issuing purple tickets indicating which rule the student followed. This is the core of our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program.
- Students “spend” their purple tickets on incentives and the purple tickets are put into a basket to be drawn for a chance to attend the quarterly principal’s party.
- Teachers are being encouraged to give more positives and use positive cueing and reinforcement.
- Students are reminded daily over the announcements of the school and lunchroom rules.
- Students are reminded daily of the month’s recess skill to practice when they are playing with others outside.
- Classes are selected every day to be entered into the drawing for the quarterly principal’s party on how they behave in the lunchroom and in the hall when lining up to go to lunch recess.
- Teachers have been provided with behavioral intervention steps posters that are in every classroom to help determine how to handle student misbehavior.
- Students who have minor misbehavior are sent for a time out to a buddy teacher’s room to fill out a stop & think form.
- Quarter 1 purple ticket data has been entered and analyzed. I will be sending teachers their individual data soon to make them aware of how many they are handing out and to whom.

Talent Development

Goal: Teachers will meet in grade level professional learning communities (PLCs) at least once a week to collaborate, analyze student data and determine what to reteach their students.

Progress Report:

- Ms. Snell has been instrumental in figuring out a way that grade levels can meet during the week. We call it “Flex Time.” Teachers meet at the beginning of their contract time.

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- Paraprofessionals and other support staff cover for the grade level meeting that day when school begins. The grade level PLC ends at 9:00 a.m.
- In PLCs, teachers collaborate with each other to analyze student data. From their findings, they figure out what concepts need to be retaught and how to reteach them to specific students.
- Some grade levels are rotating groups by ability to help students with common abilities learn at their level.
- All teachers are engaged in small group instruction to reteach missed concepts and reinforce prior learning.
- Teachers meet bimonthly in district supported PLCs to address the following:
 - Go over team norms and roles
 - Talk about celebrations
 - Follow up on action steps from the last PLC meeting
 - Set a goal for that day's meeting
 - Teachers ask each other the following questions: What do we want our students to learn? How will we know they have learned it? What will we do if they don't know it? What will we do if they do know it?
 - Talk about strategies to use for MLLs and Special Education students
 - Discuss students with challenging behaviors and what interventions to try to improve behavior
 - Commit to action steps to follow until the next meeting
- Team leads fill out the information above on a form and send it to me as a way to hold them accountable.

Teacher Instructional Improvement and Accountability

The teachers at Arcadia are amazing and doing great work this year. The following are ways I am holding them accountable and helping them improve their instruction:

- Ms. Snell and I have identified three teaching practices that teachers are to work on each month throughout the year. They are:
 - Classroom Management Skills
 - Student Engagement Strategies

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- Lesson Pacing Techniques

Our administration/coaching team helps teachers with these practices as we focus on one each month.

- This year, I have committed to increase the amount of time I visit classrooms each day. We call these visits “drop-ins.” I stay for 10 - 15 minutes and am looking for evidence of our monthly focus as well as eight basic classroom management skills that are essential for teacher success. They are:
 - Stating expectations
 - Giving attention prompts
 - Using proximity control
 - Using positive cueing
 - Setting time limits
 - Using your voice correctly
 - Effective tasking
- As per district guidelines, all teachers are formally observed at least twice a year – more if the teacher is struggling. When Ms. Snell and I observed teachers formally, we are looking for evidence of the QSD teaching standards. You can view these standards by going [here](#).
- After a teacher is formally observed, they are invited to a one-on-one debriefing session with the administrator who observed them teach. When debriefing, I go over the observation form I filled out during the observation based on the teaching standards with the teacher and comment on many of the great things he/she were doing. I also address things that could be improved. We then collaborate on ways to address challenges, establish expectations for future drop-ins and observations, talk about the progress of the teacher’s growth goal(s), student data and behavior and anything else the teacher would like me to address.
- Teachers work with three coaches at Arcadia. Michelle Danielson is our literacy coach. She primarily works with K-3 teachers; however, she often works with upper grade teachers when necessary. Caryn Johnson is an instructional coach who works with brand new teachers and upper grade teachers who need more support in a specific area. Kristen Logan is our

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technology coach and works with teachers on technology related issues, lessons and equipment and often models technology-based lessons teachers can give to increase student engagement and learning.

- Teachers are given many professional development opportunities throughout the year. Last year and continuing into this year, the State paid for reading training called LETRS that is an in-depth study into the science of reading. Teachers also learned and will learn about the following:
 - Math fact fluency
 - The new i-Ready Math program
 - A new program for MLL tracking and resources
 - Training on the new Amira reading program
 - Analyzing WIDA data for MLLs
 - How to use the ST Math computer program effectively
 - Human trafficking training
 - Training on how to help students with trauma

Quarterly Principal's Party

Ms. Snell and I will make another video where we will draw students and classes from staff issued purple tickets and daily class entries based on student behavior at lunchtime. The party will be on the 9th at 2:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. We will have a popcorn party, play music and dance. The purpose of the party is to reward students and classes that have frequently followed the school rules.

Ririe-Woodbury POPS Dance Assembly

We will host Ririe-Woodbury dancers on the 18th to expose students to modern dance and help them expand their sense of culture and fine arts. I am excited to provide this opportunity to our students. We will offer more artistic opportunities throughout the rest of the year.

Community Council

As I've written before, we need three more parents to join Community Council. The next meeting will be on the 19th at 3:45 p.m. in the library. Please consider joining the council. You can email me

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at mgraham@graniteschools.org to obtain a declaration of candidacy form to fill out and send back to me. Please let me know if you would like more information on what this two-year commitment entails.

5th Grade Field Trip to Bennion Jr. & Registration

5th grade students have been invited to tour Bennion Jr. High on the 23rd. The next day, the 24th, counselors from Bennion Jr. will come to Arcadia to speak with 5th graders about the classes they are required to take and elective classes. They will then have the students fill out registration cards (with the help of their teachers). Usually, the counselors and 5th grade teachers send the registration cards home so parents can review them, counsel with their student and approve the registration plan. If you have questions about this process, please contact your child's teacher or you are welcome to contact the 6th grade counselor at Bennion Jr.

Math Night

I'm excited to announce that Math Night will be on the 25th. Dinner will be served from 5:00 – 5:30 p.m. During dinner, our band and choir will perform! We will then have parents and students visit Math related stations and learn about Math activities you can do at home to help your child with their mathematical thinking. Our Family Engagement Committee and Mathnasium will be planning and hosting this event. Please mark this on your calendar and plan to attend if you are able.

19th & 26th – Ski Utah Field Trips for 4th Graders

Mrs. Hunsaker's and Mr. Morse's students (A-J) will go on the 19th and Mr. Morse's (K-Z) and Mrs. Rose's classes go on the 26th. Parent permission slips must be turned in for students to be able to participate. Any 4th grade teacher can give you the particulars if you would like your child to go on this field trip.

Important Dates to Know This Month

11th is an Early Out Day

12th, 13th & 16th – No School

17th – Beginning of 3rd Quarter

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Coming in February!

- February 1st – RDT Dance Assembly
- February 2nd – Mobile Food Bank
- February 2nd – PTA Monthly Meeting in the Library
- February 6th – No School for Half-day Kindergarten Students
- February 6th & 7th – SEP Conferences
- February 8th – Springville Arts Museum to Visit Classrooms
- February 9th – Early Out Day
- February 10th – No School
- February 13th – 5th Grade Field Trip (Utah Symphony)
- February 15th – Arts Inc. Hip Hop Assembly
- February 16th – Community Council
- February 16th – Early Out Day
- February 17th – No School
- February 20th – President's Day (No School)
- February 23rd – Maturation for 4th & 5th Graders

I'm excited to continue the great work we are doing at Arcadia into 2023. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

All the best,

Matthew Graham
Principal
Arcadia Elementary

