Meet the CIA Department

Last spring Wasatch County School District announced Paul Sweat, former Wasatch High School principal, and Eric Campbell, former Heber Valley Elementary principal, as the new Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (CIA) department heads.

“These important changes are intended to better prepare us for the implementation of the new Common Core and corresponding new assessments, the continued implementation of our instructional model, the improvement of our professional learning community processes, and most importantly, the continued growth of the students we serve,” said Superintendent Shoemaker.

The CIA Department worked through the summer in preparation for the school year.

With major changes in curriculum the goal is to be proactive and progressive to ensure transitions that are timely and successful.

The CIA team is excited to have Linda Turner, the ELL Specialist, join the department. “She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience working with the ELL population,” said Paul.

Curriculum Director and Coordinator

Paul Sweat has worked as an educator in Wasatch County School District for the past 20 years. He started in 1991 as a middle school math teacher, then later served as an assistant principal at the Wasatch Middle School. Paul spent eight years as assistant principal/athletic director and five years as principal of Wasatch High School. Paul considers his involvement with the design and construction of the new high school as one of the highlights of his career.

After 15 years as a building-level administrator, Paul is excited to become a part of the district office and is already enjoying his new assignment.

Eric Campbell has been an educator for 12 years. He first came to Wasatch School District in 1997, as a student teacher. He then spent two years teaching in Las Vegas. We are not sure what happened there since “what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas.” In 2000, Eric returned to Wasatch County School District as the PASS and geography teacher at Wasatch Mountain Junior High. Then in 2004 Eric began his principalship at Heber Valley Elementary.

Eric welcomes his new assignment at the District Office. “I miss the students, but I am enjoying the new opportunities that the Curriculum Coordinator position brings.”

Curriculum Secretary

Eric and Paul welcome their new secretary, Stacey Robertson. Stacey is new to the Heber Valley and to Wasatch School District. Stacey says, “It is a great opportunity to work for Wasatch School District. I look forward to being a part of the district and the community.”

Stacey is a graduate of the University of Wyoming, where she received her bachelor degree in journalism.

“Stacey is a great addition to our team; we are pleased to have her at the district office,” says Paul.

- Piaget

Inside This Issue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Model</th>
<th>ELL</th>
<th>Common Core</th>
<th>TELL</th>
<th>WVLA</th>
<th>Testing Ethics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On November 17 the CIA Department proposed that the school board adopt a new academic model. Paul explained, “This model will act as a guiding document for teaching and learning throughout the district.” The document is centered around the district mission statement, along with the six questions and ten essential elements of our professional learning community. This will help teachers focus their efforts in the right direction and provide a means of continuous improvement.

The board suggested that the proposed academic model be distributed to the Wasatch teaching faculty to review and provide feedback before considering approval at the next board meeting on December 15th.

We ask that if you have suggestions regarding the academic model shown below, you email Paul Sweat or Eric Campbell before December 14.

---

**Academic Model Out for Review**

On November 17 the CIA Department proposed that the school board adopt a new academic model. Paul explained, “This model will act as a guiding document for teaching and learning throughout the district.” The document is centered around the district mission statement, along with the six questions and ten essential elements of our professional learning community. This will help teachers focus their efforts in the right direction and provide a means of continuous improvement.

The board suggested that the proposed academic model be distributed to the Wasatch teaching faculty to review and provide feedback before considering approval at the next board meeting on December 15th.

We ask that if you have suggestions regarding the academic model shown below, you email Paul Sweat or Eric Campbell before December 14.

---

**Mindset**

Mindset is a simple idea discovered by world-renowned Stanford University psychologist Carol Dweck in decades of research on achievement and success—a simple idea that makes all the difference.

In a fixed mindset, people believe their basic qualities, like their intelligence or talent, are simply fixed traits. They spend their time documenting their intelligence or talent instead of developing them. They also believe that talent alone creates success—without effort. They’re wrong.

In a growth mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work—brains and talent are just the starting point. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment. Virtually all great people have had these qualities.

Teaching a growth mindset creates motivation and productivity in the worlds of business, education, and sports.

[http://mindsetonline.com](http://mindsetonline.com)
Linda Turner has worked in Wasatch County School District for over 30 years as a teacher, counselor, board member, district language arts and ESL specialist. She has taught grades six through university level.

Linda commented that, “Wasatch School District has been a fantastic place to work, and I am amazed of all the positive changes that have occurred in the district over the years.”

Linda’s office is located at the high school. You can contact her at ext. 4147 or email her at linda.turner@wasatch.edu.

How Do We Grade ELLs

With the ending of the first term, you may have wondered how you should grade English Language Learners (ELLs) while maintaining standards and “being fair” to all students.

Some teachers grade ELLs the same way they grade all students; that is, grading each piece of work or test and then averaging the scores at the end of the term. However, some teachers feel it is wrong to grade ELLs at all, so they only grade their effort or behavior until the students have acquired more English.

Neither option is appropriate. It is important for teachers to think of instruction and assessment as tools for student learning achievement and then plan accordingly based on the English proficiency levels of the ELLs in their classroom.

The WIDA Can Do Descriptors presented at the District’s opening institute is one resource that can help teachers plan instruction and determine if they have designed assessments and evaluations that are appropriate for their ELLs.

Hopefully, all teachers in Wasatch District are using the Can Do Descriptors for lesson and assessment planning. If you need help with this, please contact Linda.

District Implements the Common Core

Utah is one of over 40 states and territories that have agreed to transition their core standards for English language arts and mathematics to a set of standards common to most states. This “Common Core” initiative is organized and supported by the National Governor’s Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).

Wasatch will be following a state supported timeline in their implementation of both math and language arts throughout the district.

A number of Wasatch County School District teachers attended the Common Core Academy last summer. The purpose of the academy was to help teachers and schools build capacity to effectively implement the English Language Arts Common Core State Standards in Kindergarten through 12th Grade, and the Mathematics Common Core State Standards in Grades 6 and 9.

“Implementation of this new curriculum is off to a good start and will continue for the next several years,” says Paul.

For more information and a comparison of the Utah Core to the Common Core visit www.schools.utah.gov/core/.

Teachers Begin TELL ESL

In September, a new cohort of 20 teachers began working towards an ESL endorsement through BYU’s Teaching English Language Learners (TELL) program. The 18-credit hour program runs for two years with three classes per year. It is founded on research-based knowledge and practices for ELL students. TELL includes the following courses: Foundations, Second Language Acquisition, Assessment, Second Language Literacy, Content-Based Instruction and Family-School-Community. Along with Sherrie Seawright, who has coordinated the TELL program, multiple teachers in our district have been instructors for TELL. We congratulate the teachers who have completed an ESL endorsement and those who are currently participating in the cohort. We appreciate their desire to better serve the ELLs in their classrooms. We hope more teachers will take advantage of the ESL endorsement opportunity when the next cohort begins in the fall of 2013.
New Online Education Opportunities Available

Wasatch’s new online educational programs are designed to create opportunities for those students who do not fit the traditional classroom model. We welcome homeschool students, students in Olympic developments programs, medically homebound students and others who cannot regularly attend a school site.

Wasatch Virtual Learning Academy K-8

Kindergarten through 8th grade students are offered the individualized K12 curriculum, which covers core subject areas and much more. The program includes state-of-the-art interactive lessons, online planning and assessment tools. Contact Mrs. Scott for more information, nicolle.scott@wasatch.edu.

Wasatch High e-School

Students are eligible to participate in Wasatch High e-school if they are in grades 9-12 and reside in the state of Utah. Students should see their counselor to determine which courses they are interested in taking online, as well as ensure that the course will fit into their SEOP Plan.

New students should contact Wasatch High School to schedule a meeting with a guidance counselor who will advise them of the enrollment process. Contact Mr. Cowen for additional information mike.cowen@wasatch.edu.

Testing Dates

PLAN 10th Grade........9/29
PSAT 11th Grade.......10/12
EXPLORE 9th Grade...10/18
EXPLORE 8th Grade...10/26
DWA 5th & 8th........2/12-3/9
ACT Pilot all 11th.......3/6
CRT Test..............4/16—5/25
ACT National Test.............9/10,10/22, 12/10, 2/11, 4/14, 6/9

Testing Ethics

Ethical testing begins with ethical teaching

Educators should:
♦ Ensure that students are enrolled in appropriate courses so that they receive appropriate instruction.
♦ Provide instruction on the entire curriculum for a course.
♦ Provide accommodations during instruction to eligible students, as identified by an ELL, IEP, or 504 team.
♦ Introduce students to various test-taking strategies throughout the year.
♦ Use the reference sheets provided for specific assessments throughout the year as instructional tools.
♦ Reduce classroom interruptions to maximize student learning.

Educators may also:
♦ Provide practice tests throughout the year using high-quality, non-secure test questions.

Educators must ensure that:
♦ An appropriate environment is set for testing to limit distractions.
♦ The importance of the test and test participation, or the good faith efforts of all students are not undermined.

♦ All personnel who administered tests are trained and are accountable for ethically administering tests.
♦ All information in the Test Administration Manual (TAM) for each test they administer is reviewed and strictly followed.
♦ All accommodations are provided for eligible students, as identified by an ELL, IEP, or 504 team.
♦ The test materials are secure before, during, and after testing – when not in use, all materials must be locked where students, parents, or the public cannot gain access.
♦ All students who are eligible for testing are tested.
♦ The appropriate test proctoring occurs. This includes verifying that students are marking answer documents appropriately.
♦ No person is left alone in a computer lab with student tests that are open. Educators must not enter a student’s computer-based test for any reason.

http://www.schools.utah.gov

CONTACT US:

Paul Sweat, Director of CIA
Paul.sweat@wasatch.edu
Ext. 4126

Eric Campbell, CIA Coordinator
Eric.campbell@wasatch.edu
Ext. 4123

Jane Golightly has worked in Wasatch School District for 18 years. She has taught special ed. resource at J.R. Smith, Heber Valley Elementary, and Wasatch High School. Jane has also worked as a teacher on special assignment and is currently the coordinator of special ed., gifted ed., preschools, and The Wasatch Associates program. “The best decision I ever made was to move to Heber and work for Wasatch School District,” says Jane.

Jane reminds us that the law mandates that all students, including special ed. students, be included in the general curriculum. They must all be exposed to the grade-level information.

WASATCH VIRTUAL LEARNING ACADEMY

Jane Golightly

Special Ed. Coordinator