

F E B R U A R Y 9 , 2 0 1 8

Highlights

Athol-Royalston Regional School District

Three Principal Candidates Selected to interview for RCS Position

On February 12, 2018 three candidates will be interviewed for the principal opening at the Royalston Community School. Once the interview process is complete the interview committee will select the finalists to take part in a daylong visit on February 14, 2018. The finalist will tour classrooms at both RCS and ACES, meet with the current principal, take part in a discussion with parents and teachers, and interview with the superintendent and the school committee. After a reference check, the superintendent will announce the candidate selected to take the position.



ACES and ARMS Students Dance the Night Away

A special thank you goes out to the ACES PTO who sponsored an 80's night at ACES. ARMS students held their annual Valentine's Day dance as well. It was clear by all the smiling faces that students had a great time at both events.



Superintendents Schedule

2/12/2018

- Interviews RCS Principal
- Operations Meeting

2/13/2018

- AIR Rubric Training
- DILT Meeting

2/14/2018

- Principal Finalist Tours
- Budget Sub Committee
- School Committee

2/15/2018

- Evaluation Meetings
- Department Meetings

2/16/2018

- ILT Meeting
- Transportation Meeting

Picture of The Week

Athol-Royalston secondary teachers learn from Keys to Literacy, how to incorporate more writing into classrooms.



Incorporating Writing with Keys to Literacy

Over the course of the last 4 half PD days, Keys to Literacy has been in the district working directly with classroom teachers helping them to incorporate writing more frequently in their classrooms. District data has demonstrated, in many cases, that 1/3 of the students in the district are leaving open response questions on the MCAS blank or are writing very little. This is an area the district needs to improve on. Teachers are learning about the types of writing, how to use a writing assignment guide, the difference between content writing and other sources of writing, how to write from sources, and how to explicitly instruct writing with students. In addition to Keys to Literacy support, teachers who teach math are working with Looney and associates on math open response. Teachers are giving students the same writing prompt and are scoring the prompts together and discussing how to work with students who may be struggling. Teachers at the elementary level who teach ELA are doing similar work with Teachers for Teachers.

District Walkthrough Results

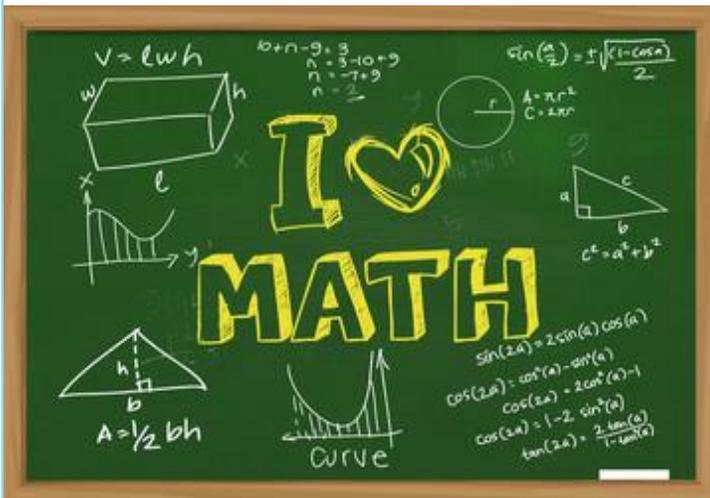
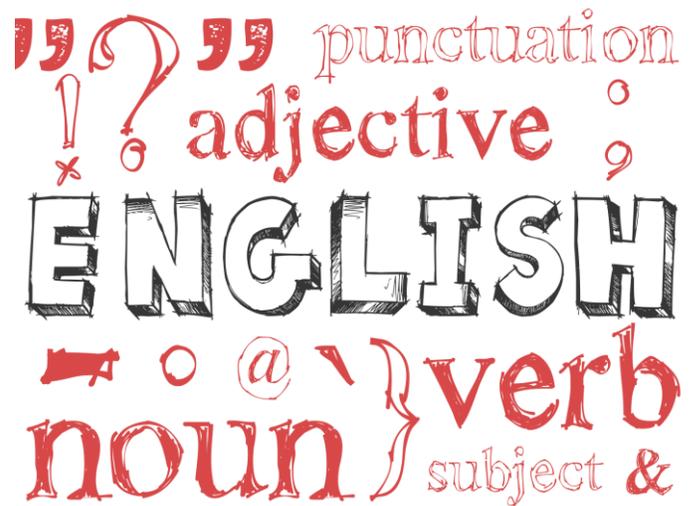
Over the course of the fall and winter the district has completed two learning walks in each school for the purpose of gaging the patterns and trends around best practices for instruction. Below is a chart that gives an overview of the differences between the fall and winter learning walks. The goal of the district is to see a 20% increase across all indicators by the end of the year. One can see, in the chart below, the district has met the 20% goal in indicator 1 and is very close in indicator 4. Indicator 1 looks for daily learning targets in classrooms and is connected to overarching theme. Indicator 4 asks teachers to plan for appropriate pacing, sequence and activities with available materials, resources and technologies. The district growth in indicators 7 and 8 has been sluggish. Indicator 7 is teachers' use of a variety of strategies to ensure that students are motivated and engaged in the lesson's learning target. Indicator 8 asks teachers to design a lesson that allows all students to participate in authentic conversations around lesson learning targets. The percentages represent the total percent of classes that fully implemented each indicator.

Indicator	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Fall Fully	45%	53%	38%	33%	39%	22%	34%	34%	50%	33%
Winter Fully	66%	62%	47%	52%	48%	32%	37%	38%	56%	41%
Difference Fully	21%	9%	9%	19%	9%	10%	3%	4%	6%	8%

Department Highlights

ELA Department

- High school teachers incorporate more entry points for student learning by asking students to state what they know and use it to link to new concepts being taught in classrooms
- Grade 5 ELA classes begin using Wonder's curriculum to support student learning
- Teachers who have Wonder's curriculum now use online assessments to measure students proficiency each week



Math Department

- Looney associates are working with the math department to set up open response writing prompts that mimic MCAS.
- Students in math classes are being trained to use multiple ways to solve a problem
- Engage New York math curriculum is now in its 5th year of implementation at the elementary schools.

Science Department

- Elementary and middle school teachers are reviewing a new science curriculum.
- A grade 4 classroom is piloting a new science curriculum and science rotation.
- 5 Students have begun paid internships at Starretts.
- 3-D printers donated by Starretts are now being demonstrated to students across the secondary level
- Science department is slated to receive new laptop labs in all 4 classrooms at the high school.

