

CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT BETWEEN BHPS AND MOUNTAINSIDE

Dr. Melissa Varley, Superintendent BHPS

Mrs. Janet Walling, Superintendent Mountainside

Mrs. Marybeth Kopacz, Director of Elementary Education

Mrs. Natalie Crisafulli, Math Specialist

Mr. Drew Ziobro, Math Supervisor



February 25, 2021





Our Goal



Ensuring every child from Mountainside and Berkeley Heights are prepared to enter Governor Livingston with the same educational foundation.

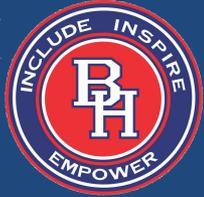


Mathematics K-5



BH/MS have collaboratively worked to develop common goals driving shared curriculum development in order to leverage resources and ensure program alignment for students in the elementary schools.

- All elementary schools use Go Math! (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) as a resource to support implementation of the mathematics curriculum, grades K-5
- Director, Supervisors, Specialists, and Coordinators from both districts collaborate to create common scope and sequences, and units of study.
- Curriculum compacting took place this year, due to the hybrid learning models. This revised scope and sequence was shared.
- Common benchmarks are utilized.
- Continued collaboration is taking place as we look to pilot new math resources in the 2022-2023 school year.



Mathematics 6-8



BH/MS have collaboratively worked to develop common goals driving shared professional development and curriculum development in order to leverage resources and ensure program alignment for students entering Governor Livingston High School.

- Curriculum development Grade 6, 7, Algebra 1, Geometry
 - 6th grade curriculum was developed by a team of teachers from both districts over the 18-19 school year. It was first implemented in 19-20 and the team continues to monitor and recommend changes to the curriculum.
 - 7th grade (Pre-Algebra) was developed by another team in 19-20. This is the first year of implementation and the team continues to meet to discuss and recommend changes.
- 8th Grade Algebra Program
- Professional Development
 - Math Modeling workshops in 2019-2020 with cross district teacher teams from grades 2-12
 - DESMOS, M.A.T.H Stations, IM Resources, Spreadsheets, Grade Level Collaboration



English Language Arts



Berkeley Heights and Mountainside work together to ensure that the English Language Arts Program is in alignment, and supports all of the components necessary to implement best practices via a research-based Balanced/Structured literacy program.

- Literacy block encompasses reading, writing, word study (phonemic awareness, phonics, spelling, and vocabulary), grammar, usage, and mechanics, handwriting, and technology literacy
- In common:
 - ELA scope and sequences
 - Professional development and Units of Study - Partnership with Columbia Teachers College for Reading Workshop training
 - Benchmarks including but not limited to: Fountas and Pinnell Reading Assessments, TC Reading and Writing Assessments, and Dibels
 - Intervention resource - Fountas and Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) program
- Articulation across grade levels K-8



Social Studies

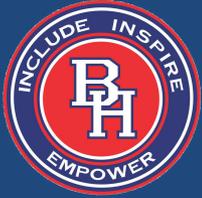


In Grades K-5:

- Director, Supervisors, Specialists and Coordinators from both districts collaborate to create common scope and sequences, and units of study.
- Continued collaboration is taking place as we look to pilot new Social Studies resources for adoption in the 2021-2022 school year.
- Curriculum writing teams across the two districts will write and plan together.

In Grades 6-8:

- The following items have been shared and are administratively supported: Curriculum Scope and Sequences shared, writing guides - both 6-8 and 9-12, writing ladder, grading guide and expectations, historical reasoning skills, historical reasoning skills, document analysis guide and expectations.



Science



In Grades K-5:

- Director, Supervisors, Specialists, and Coordinators from both districts collaborate to create common scope and sequences, using the New Jersey NGSS. Common Nonfiction Units of Study are taught including topics on animals, insects, weather, space, etc.
- Common resources are used to support instruction including: Mystery Science, BrainPOP, Jr. NEWSELA, and Scholastic News.
- Curriculum writing teams across the two districts will continue to write and plan together.

In Grades 6-8:

- Reviewed scope, sequence, and curricular resources with Deerfield science team. Created crosswalk between curricula. Discussed OpenSciEd pilot and set up middle school science collaboration meetings. Provided space for Deerfield teachers to attend professional development sessions.
- Worked with Deerfield to review their new STEM electives to ensure alignment



Special Education



Berkeley Heights Director of Special Services and Supervisor of Special Education are in continuous collaboration with the Mountainside Supervisor of Special Education including, but not limited to:

- Invitations to professional development opportunities that are relevant to both districts
- Berkeley Heights CST participation in IEP meetings for transitioning Mountainside students
- Invitations to parent training opportunities throughout the year
- Acceptance of tuition-based elementary students for specialized programs
- Dialogue about placement decisions for Mountainside high school students in out-of-district placements



Next Steps



- ❑ Continuation and implementation of:
 - ❑ Shared Professional Development opportunities
 - ❑ Articulation opportunities with grade/subject level peers in both districts
 - ❑ Curricular and program alignment
 - ❑ K-5 Math
 - ❑ New material adoption for 2022-2023
 - ❑ K-5 Teachers College Readers Writers Program
 - ❑ 6-8 Math Curriculum Updates and Revisions
 - ❑ Unpacking of new Social Studies Standards
 - ❑ K-2 and 3-5 banding of topics
 - ❑ Realignment of curricular documents
 - ❑ Full Day Kindergarten in Berkeley Heights
 - ❑ Exploration of additional shared Middle School sports opportunities

QUESTIONS?

