

Newletter from the ES

Council for Teaching & Learning



April 24

Dear Collaborative Teachers,

In the April CTL meeting we had an open-house in which we invited you all to join us so you can see first-hand the work we are doing. In our meeting we got to talk to Melaika Brown (ES ELA Supervisor) who shared with us a few things about the new curriculum coming our way. The ELA curriculum is called: Amplify Core Knowledge Language Art (Amplify CKLA) and it is a comprehensive curriculum that includes building phonics knowledge with explicit instruction (for K-2) while also building knowledge and comprehension skills.

- **Why change curriculum:**
 - Students did not make the growth expected/desired (needed better outcomes for students' learning).
 - Teachers expressed discontent with Benchmark Advance.
 - Needed a systematic approach to teaching reading that was comprehensive and included word study components for 3rd-5th grade students.
- **Materials:** will include the news version of all materials: Hard copy teacher guides 1-skills and 1- Knowledge , an anthology book keep on the shelf year after year, trade books, letter cards, activity books for students (consumables)
 - K-2: Foundational Skills and Building knowledge
 - 3-5: Building knowledge, vocabulary, engaging texts
 - The ELA office will provide teachers with a guide for grading and reporting to help teachers plan which measurement topics are taught and reported in which marking periods.
- **ELD considerations:**
 - Amplify CKLA will have an ELD component Language studio.
- **Intervention materials:**
 - "Boost read" for tier 1 and tier 2 interventions as those interventions have to be tied to the core curriculum.
- **Writing:**
 - The writing instruction will be integrated into the ELA block and will be connected to the reading thus time spent on the writing component will change based on the lesson and unit. Explicit writing instruction will be provided from K-5th grade.



- Each grade will have a research project- can be a collaborative project with the media specialist.
- **Anticipating challenges:**
 - The curriculum builds on skills learned in past years so as we roll it out, we will have to plan to bridge some gaps that are due to students not having Amplify CKLA in past years.
 - No more RGR...
- **Assessments:**
 - We will be able to continue to use the DIBELS assessments for K-2 and 3-5th graders who are in the red.
- **Online resources:**
 - For teachers: we will be able to look at some materials now with the demo account and in July, teachers will be able to access other materials.
 - For students: an online engagement tool, similar to “RGR playground” will be available.
- **Training:**
 - Reading specialists are being trained on the curriculum now, and on how to help teachers and teams with the integration of the new curriculum.
 - Teachers will have 2 days during the summer of training on the different components of Amplify CKLA.
 - Some additional training will be in the Fall focused on interventions.
- **Other related Q&A:**
 - When will access to RGR playground be terminated?
 - On June 30th.
 - Did other school districts use this curriculum?
 - Yes. With great success. Washington County is implementing the same program and Anne Arundel County will begin in the fall.
 - When will teachers get to engage with the curriculum and materials in depth?
 - Probably not before pre-service week.
 - Our contract states that if the curriculum is vendor purchased, then MCPS must provide training at least four weeks prior to implementation. However, if the curriculum is MCPS developed, then access to materials must be four weeks from implementation. [Here](#) is the section from the contract that talks about this issue.

We also heard from **David Stein**- Upcoming MCEA president. He talked about the importance of us, teachers, maximizing our power to fight for the things that matter most to us. He encourages us all, to be present in spaces where our voice is heard and be in the spaces where decisions and discussions are happening. The more people who are involved- in some way or another- the better we all will be!



Last thing:

MCEA members who serve on the Materials Supply workgroup are seeking your feedback about materials that are ordered. Please take a quick minute and let your voice be heard so that changes can be made.

Materials Supply Survey: <https://forms.gle/g2SU5gq1Ss6noQn9A>

Additional information:

- Link to the new curriculum information sheet [HERE](#).
- Principle memo regarding the new ELA curriculum- [see here](#).
- Q & A about the new Amplify CKLA: [here](#).
- The Principal's memo Regarding Kindergarten Orientation: [Linked here](#).
- Please click [this link](#) for more information, including an accommodation guide.

Reminders:

If you have any questions about anything above or need more information from our meeting this past week, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

If you ever have any questions, concerns, or topics you'd like us to discuss at our meetings, please do not hesitate to reach out to your CTL reps so we can escalate your questions to the appropriate office. Please continue to upload questions on this [link](#) and find answers to your curriculum and instructional questions.

Sincerely,

Your devoted CTL representative