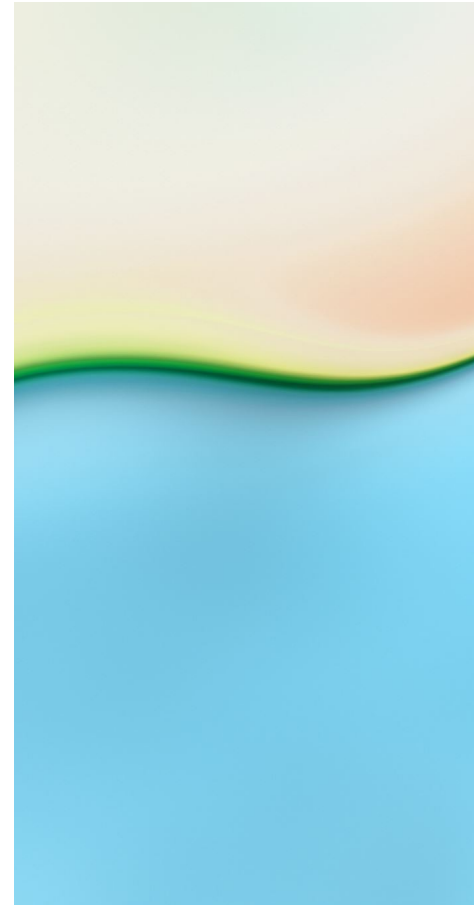


IMPROVING INSTRUCTION THROUGH VERTICAL ALIGNMENT

Allen J. Warren Elementary

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Julie Terry & Jamie Wilson



BACKGROUND LEADING TO THIS INQUIRY

When mapping out our survey data, it led us to believe that implementing instructional rounds would be a positive step for our staff. After introducing this concept and sending out a form to be filled out, this changed direction. Most feedback from our staff revealed that the alignment of curriculum and standards was the direction which they believed would be more beneficial.

EXAMPLE OF FORM FEEDBACK

- Comment from Staff:

I think it would benefit me more if we were able to collaborate with teams above and below us and really get a better idea what we can do more of to get our kids ready for the next grade level. We could talk about all areas to improve and where we can push the students more. We can get a better idea of what to focus on for students going into the next grade level in the fall.

PURPOSE OF THIS INQUIRY

Therefore, the purpose of our action inquiry was to create a vertical alignment resource that is user friendly and accessible to our staff.

OUR WONDERING

With this purpose, we wondered if our staff collaboratively worked on creating a vertical alignment of the power standards taught, would instruction improve and be streamlined.

OUR ACTIONS

- First, we had a all staff meeting to discuss the direction that we were headed and brainstormed ideas.
- Next, we utilized our professional development time to break into groups to fill in a chart the team created.
- PD groups included:

K/1, 2/3, 4/5 - one week

1/2 and 3/4 - second week

K-2 and 3-5 - third week

Whole Staff - fourth week

Surveys given after each week to drive work for the following week. Cycle repeated itself for other subject area.

DATA COLLECTION

- Warren's Vertical Alignment Chart
- Google Forms

OUR DATA

[Warren's Vertical Alignment of Power Standards](#)

OUR DATA

Number Sense

K	1	2	3	4	5
K.NS.2	1.NS.1 1.NS.2	2.NS.1 2.NS.3 2.NS.7	3.NS.1 3.NS.3 3.NS.7	4.NS.3/NS3 NS5 NS6	NS.2 NS.1 NS.6
Resources: Envisions, TPT, MathSeeds, Schoolkit Math app, Daily Math Review	Pearson Envisions, TPT, Math Facts in a Flash App, Seesaw	Pearson Envisions, TPT, IXL	Pearson Envisions, TPT, IXL	Envisions, TPT, IXL, Xtra Math/Rocket Math, Prodigy, Multiplication!!, Sushi Monster	Pearson Envisions, TPT, IXL, Prodigy
Timeline:					
Q1 Q2	Q1	Q3 Q3 Q1	Q1 & Q3	2.1	2.1

OUR DATA

Non-Fiction

K	1	2	3	4	5
K.RN.1 K.RN.2.1 K.RN.2.2	1.RN.1 1.RN.2.1 1.RN.2.2 1.RN.2.3 1.RN.3.2 1.RN.4.1 1.RN.4.2	2.RN.3.3 2.RN.4.2 2.RN.4.1 2.RN.3.2 2.RN.2.3 2.RN.2.1 2.RN.3.1 2.RN.2.2	3.RN.3.3 3.RN.2.1 3.RN.2.2 3.RN.4.2 3.RN.4.1	RN 2.1 RN 2.2 RN 3.1 RN 4.1	RN 2.1 RN 2.2 RN 3.1 RN 4.1
Resources:					
Scholastic News EPIC HMH	HMH Scholastic TPT Rigby	HMH IXL RAZ Kids	HMH IXL Read Theory Epic Libby	HMH Rigby IXL Readworks Epic Libby EdPuzzle Scholastic News	HMH Rigby IXL Readworks Epic Libby EdPuzzle Scholastic News

OUR DATA

One Positive Thing that Occurred:

8 responses

We are using the same vocabulary when introducing and teaching lessons.

That we need to move faster with math and spiral back around.

Lots of talk about subject area strengths and weaknesses.

It was good to collab with 4th and hear about what we could do to have kids better prepared for the next year.

Knowing that we were on the right track getting our students where they need to be to enter the next grade level.

Discussed standards that align 3-5

It is just nice to have the time to talk with coworkers about the curriculum.

discussion about basic facts through division-as they are expected to know them coming into 4th grade.

OUR DATA

One Thing you would like others to know:

8 responses

That rounding is no longer in the math series in the primary grades.

Vocabulary is crucial. Math vocabulary needs to be used by everyone.

The time we met was valuable.

I can't remember what I put last week when we met with 2nd but I let 4th know that 2nd's math book does not teach traditional +/-

We do not use the online envisions with the students, so going into the 2nd grade - this would be very new for them.

There are not as many standards that align as we thought there would be!

I feel kids are coming in lower than normal and behaviors are different. I feel like technology/social media prior is a big part of why it is becoming more challenging working with them.

IXL has Indiana standards as a skill plan so teachers can identify the skill that coordinate with power

OUR DISCOVERIES

- Crucial conversations about curriculum need to occur often
- Alignment of priority standards do not always have a straight path

WHERE WE ARE HEADING NEXT

Reflection

- Our teachers discovered major gaps that occurred between grade level instruction.
- Our teachers realized the need to update priority standard maps
- Our team has realized that the importance of focusing on instructional practice and creating a resource for curriculum instruction that can be utilized by all grade levels.

NEXT STEPS

- Our teachers are going a step further to create a resource reference guide to help guide instruction.
- Our teachers see the need for a school-wide instructional and curricular vocabulary list.

Improving Instruction Through Vertical Alignment

Principal Name: Christina Davis

School Name: Allen J. Warren Elementary School

Team Members' Names: Julie Terry and Jamie Wilson

Principal's Email Contact: cdavis@highland.k12.in.us

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