

To: Marlinton Board of Education  
From: Mrs. Anna Minor, Assistant Superintendent  
Re: Curriculum and RttT Updates  
Date: April 17, 2014

1. Our horticulture, natural resource and business accounting career tech programs submitted another Monsanto Grant for \$25,000.00. The objectives of the grant include:
  - ***Food for Today, Sustainability for Life***- while the grant aims to develop a partnership between our natural resource, horticulture and business accounting career tech programs to start a business, the principles of the grant far surpass the immediate benefits of the business. We aim to teach our students to apply the relevant experience of starting, maintaining, and growing a business from the ground up to their own circumstances. Our challenge is to provide the foundational skills so that they have sustainability for life with the business skills they will develop.
  - This grant will provide the funds to purchase the following: a new walk-in cooler that is critical for the storing of the produce that is pre- and post-packaged, furnishing a newly renovated work space with necessary supplies, updating the infrastructure of the greenhouse to support the new work space, which includes updating the furnace and electrical needs, purchasing a labeling system, and finally a set of 10 iPads to be used not only to document and communicate with the business department which will be responsible for the financial accounting piece, but also to research information needed on the growing and care of the plants that are being grown. Because iPads are mobile, students will be able to carry them throughout the greenhouse and use the camera and video components to document this project's progress. The created picture/video collages can then be used to market all aspects of this new business venture within the school and the greater community.
  - Students will grow, market, produce and process fresh vegetables throughout the year. We will open a new business targeting our community enabling them to purchase fresh vegetables throughout the winter at a reasonable price. Additionally, we will be working with our Food Service Director to supply the schools' salad bars with fresh, locally-grown produce.
  
2. In response to our initial and continued efforts of the Strategic Planning process, we are implementing our first 1-to-1 project with our seventh grade students next year. We intend to provide an iPad for each student that will be incorporated in his or her everyday classroom. The goal is not to simply provide the technology but to integrate the technology in the instructional practices of blended learning. We want our students to have the ability to:

- be engaged, take ownership of learning, develop and foster creativity, have more authentic learning opportunities, be active participants of learning rather than passive observers, collaborate with others, find relevance in education and learning
- learn academic technology skills

We have begun the planning for the summer professional development and teachers are committed to the hours it will necessitate to recreate lessons to adhere to this new instructional framework.

3. RttT is nearing the finish. At the end of June, we will submit our final reports to the Ohio Department of Education regarding all the work that has been accomplished with the RttT funds. In the next couple of months, I will communicate to the Board all that has been accomplished with our grant money.
4. Deb Byo, Dan Swisher and I have met with area preschool directors to build a communication platform in which we can foster a positive transition experience for our students entering kindergarten. Listed below are the guiding principles and the goal.

Goal: To increase communication between the school district, area preschools and families leading to greater success both academically and socially for students as they transition to kindergarten.

Guiding Principles:

- Foster relationships as resources
- Promote continuity from preschool to kindergarten
- Form collaborative relationships

Through the process we developed a transition brochure and parent resources to be distributed to our preschool families. We will continue to meet yearly, once or twice, to share additional ideas and strategies to meet our goal.