

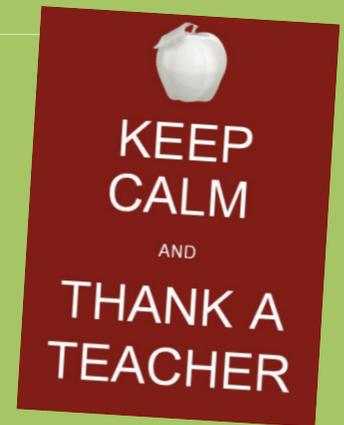
# Initiatives Update

Dear Teachers and Staff,

The end of the school year is always busy and this year is no exception. We are once again in the home stretch and we are headed for a **STRONG** finish! This has been both a challenging year, as well as, a rewarding school year. I feel extraordinarily fortunate to serve an educational community that is so very dedicated to our students.

This edition of the “Initiatives Update” is simply to keep you all in the loop.

-Clare



## Professional Development

On April 15, 2016 we held our fourth and final professional development day for the 2015-2016 school year. The day was broken up into three sessions and ran in an

“unconference” format. Teachers were able to pick from a menu of sessions. We held approximately twenty different sessions throughout the day with a variety of guest presenters. Betty Calise, a Providence College professor and education consultant, presented a session focusing on instructional strategies and differentiated instruction at the elementary and secondary levels. Kate Schults, Director of Instruction and Assessment at the RI

Department of Education, showcased

the Instructional Support System within the RideMap system. Teachers will explore the instructional resources available, as well as, accessed data. Ellen Reinhardt, RIC Professor and NRIC consultant presented a session about classroom management in the elementary classroom exploring components of proactive classroom management.

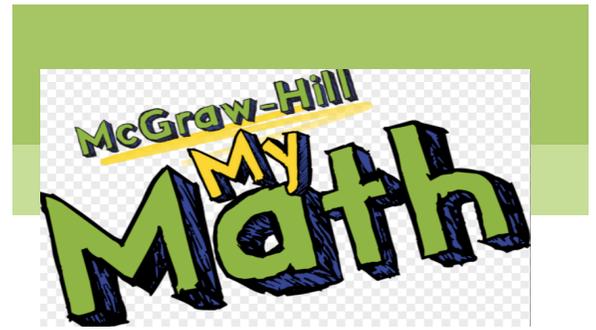






## Community of Practice – Shared Classroom Initiative

During the grant funded ELA/Math Instruction Refinement days, all K-12 ELA and Math teachers participated in our **Community of Practice – Shared Classroom Initiative**. The purpose was to generate meaningful conversations about pedagogy by organizing opportunities for teachers to ‘share’ our classrooms as way of exchanging ideas. By visiting other classrooms within our district we were able to gain exposure to varied teaching practices, reflect on our own practices and engaged in conversation about the art and craft of teaching. In addition, this initiative served as another vehicle to ensure that our curriculum is articulated and aligned K-12. The development of this initiative stemmed from previous “K-12 Math Tours.” Groups of teachers “toured” each other’s classrooms; this project received positive feedback from all teachers’ involved-host teachers and invited guests. I wholeheartedly thank all of our host teachers for opening up their classrooms!!



The Halliwell Math Program Selection Committee recommended the McGraw Hill *My Math* program for adoption. The *My Math* program provides the rigor, personalization, and student engagement needed to be successful with the Common Core State Standards. The committee members expressed enthusiasm and excitement about this program due to its online features, the large variety of lessons, rigor of problems, comprehensive assessments and ease of use.

On April 15, 2016, a representative from McMillian/McGraw Hill provided professional development/overview of the “My Math” program sharing information about the lessons, stations, standards and activities within the program, as well as, the online tools and resources.

## Book Clubs

Two book clubs were established this year. Both groups have met to discuss and reflect on the themes and instructional strategies learned. The first book, Mindset: The New Psychology of Success by Carol Dweck focused on the core belief that intelligence and abilities can be developed. The second book club book was The Gift of Dyslexia by Ron Davis. This book gives the reader a unique perspective of dyslexia, as well as, strategies for the classroom. It is always great to meet with groups of teachers after school hours to discuss the art and craft of teaching. Thank you to all who participated. I will be sending out book club titles for next year soon.





# Science

*To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle, requires creative imagination and marks real advance in science.*  
*Albert Einstein*

This year North Smithfield Schools has been developing Science curricula to align with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS.) We are creating curriculum guides that 'unpack' each standard, a curriculum map that shows which standards we are teaching by quarter and units of study based on the Understanding by Design (Ubd) format. After the

curriculum is written we will be making live binders of the work and embedding into curriculum website. During the curriculum development we will establish a "Task Force" which will meet after school to review research, and ensure the curriculum is articulated and aligned across and between grade levels. North Smithfield High School has teamed up

with Burrillville High School Science teachers to study the standards and develop the new curriculum. Thus far we have completed High School Biology and Chemistry and Physics, as well as, grades 3-8. We are in the process of developing K-2 curriculum guides. The time and energy of the science curriculum development team is greatly appreciated.

## Grant Funded Reading Supports

This year we were able to implement some grant funded reading supports at North Smithfield Elementary School. The grant funds supported three consultants who worked with grades K-2 teachers and Title I students. The consultants provided professional development for classroom teachers focusing on research-based best practices in reading instruction. The program and initiative has been a successful experience for all involved.



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## RI Advanced Course Network

You may have read about the RI Advanced Course Network in the Providence Journal. Interested North Smithfield High School students have already begun to sign up for the extra course offerings. The new Rhode Island Advanced Coursework Network was rolled out this spring and provides qualified high school and middle school students the chance to take a catalog of college and career preparatory courses at no cost to participating students. Advanced Coursework Network courses will be offered by Rhode Island colleges and universities, community based organizations and other school districts at no cost to you and your family. Taking advantage of advanced coursework of all kinds can better prepare students for success in college and future careers. Taking advantage of dual enrollment or Advanced Placement courses can reduce the time it takes your student to earn a college degree while significantly reducing the college costs your family will have to pay. More information can be found on the RIDE website.

School Year  
2016-2017

### Advanced Coursework Network Catalog



## Grant Funded Math Intervention

This year our two elementary schools were fortunate to implement a math intervention program. Two very motivated and skilled teachers, Ms. Deana Cook and Ms. Holly LaPare, worked throughout the school year with students in need of math support and intervention. This EIS grant funded program is supporting fifty children in grades one through five. It is a fantastic program that is yielding excellent results.



## A Few Nights Out...

This spring we held a couple different types of informational parent events in the evenings. We held two CIA (Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment) Nights, as well as, a PARCC Parent Information Night. These events were designed to inform all stakeholders about the standards that we teach, curriculum we have developed and the types of assessments that we administer. Parents were provided information and resources. More information about curriculum and instruction can be found at:



<http://curriculum.northsmithfieldschools.com/>

### Policy Committee

The newly formed NS Policy committee worked this year developing the K-12 Homework policy and Title I Parent Involvement Policy update. Both completed policies were recommended to the Superintendent and adopted by the school committee. I am appreciative of the work of the committee members: William Pepin, E. Claire McWilliams, Keri Blais, Corinne Ferri, Diane Kohler and Jen Daigneault. Thank you for your time and support.

## Open Circle

Teachers at both NSES and Halliwell have been implementing the Open Circle program.

Open circle is a social and emotional learning

program for kindergarten to grade 5. It is a way to help teachers teach students how to manage emotions, empathy, positive relationships and problem solving. Teachers do two 15-minute lessons in a week and then model certain behavior, vocab, throughout each day. Having a consistent program (common vocabulary/strategies) helps with student behavior and increases the students' ability to listen, calm down, cooperate, speak up and



## Our Second Walk in the PARCC

The implementation of the PARCC assessment is currently taking place. Our students are able to take the assessment online due to the time, energy and effort of our administrators, teachers, guidance counselors and technology department. The professionalism, dedication and commitment shown by all has been extraordinary.



# NS Technology Integration Website

This Spring we developed a website titled “ NS Integration of Technology Into Instruction” for the purpose of compiling news, information and resources for teachers and stakeholders. It can be found on the NS curriculum website under the “Technology Integration” tab or go to the direct link:

<https://nstechnologyintegrationblog.wordpress.com/>

North Smithfield Schools has also partnered with [the Highlander Institute](#), funded by [The Learning Accelerator](#), to implement the Fuse RI initiative. This initiative strives to share, implement, evaluate, and scale blended learning (integrating technology into instruction) by working with educators and districts across the state. As part of the FUSE initiative, North Smithfield Schools will be supported through the creation of tailored resource playlists, statewide professional learning communities around identified topics, collaboration opportunities with other LEAs, workshops, events, and consulting support.



**NS Integration of Technology into Instruction** *Blended Learning in North Smithfield*

Home About Blendspace Blendspace Digital Citizenship Ed Tech Glossary **Formative Assessment Resources**

Google Apps for Education PD Day Agendas Ted Talks Technology Web 2.0 Tools for the Classroom

**Formative Assessment Resources**

Flubaroo

Flubaroo Overview

Quizlet

Quizlet Tutorial for Teachers

**NS Technology Integration**  
We have developed this website to keep all stakeholders informed about the North Smithfield School Department's technology integration, professional development and initiatives. It is our hope that it will serve as a vehicle to inform, as well as, serve as a repository to house and share information and resources. We hope you find it valuable.

Clare Arnold, Director of Curriculum  
Adam Stanley, Director of Technology

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This winter the North Smithfield School Committee approved the purchase of fourteen chromebook carts. This is the second major installment of technology and devices as part of the district's multi-year technology plan. Our technology director, Adam Stanley, and his team did a fantastic job setting up and deploying the devices to get them in the hands of students.

Also, a group of NS educators attended the Google Summit held in Burlington, MA. It was an amazing (and sometimes mind-blowing) weekend that had us all inspired and eager to learn.