



PGMS NEWS



Back to School Night

On Thursday, September 15, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., Pottsgrove Middle School hosted the annual Back to School Night. The record attendance of 383 saw a new format for parents and teachers. The evening opened with a presentation from the principal, PTO,

and Student Government. Parents then met with their child's core teaching team and then had the opportunity to follow their child's schedule at their leisure. Teachers greeted parents and shared with them class expectations, curriculum, and ways to access help. A

survey was sent out to parents asking for feedback on the evening. A summary of the survey is in this newsletter. Parent sessions were also offered on "Connecting Learning to Home," "Surviving the Tween Years," and "PGMS Goals."



PGMS PRIDE



DATA TEAMS



RIGOROUS CURRICULUM

Raising Student Achievement Through Data Teaming

PGMS has been focused on integrating the Data Teams process into our daily work. Data Teams are professional learning communities of teachers focused on examining student achievement data. These grade-level Data Teams monitor the progress of student learning through Units of study. For example, the 8th grade Algebra teachers meet regularly to examine student results on Common Formative Assessments. The teachers analyze data, collaborate on teaching strategies, adjust instruction, set learning goals, design interventions for struggling learners, and they create enrichment activities for proficient students.

“Data Teams are collaborative teams designed to improve teaching, learning, and leadership.” (McNulty & Besser, Leaders Make It Happen, 2011).

Teachers ask four important questions when working in their Data Team:

1. What do students need to know/do?
2. What is the evidence of learning?
3. How do we support struggling students?
4. How do we challenge proficient learners?

Data teams are a model for continuous, collaborative action that inspires and empowers professionals to improve teaching, learning, and leadership for all.

“DATA TEAMS ARE THE BEST WAY TO USE DATA TO MAKE INSTRUCTIONAL DECISIONS.”
DOUG REEVES, LEAD & LEARN



6TH GRADE SS

DATA TEAMS



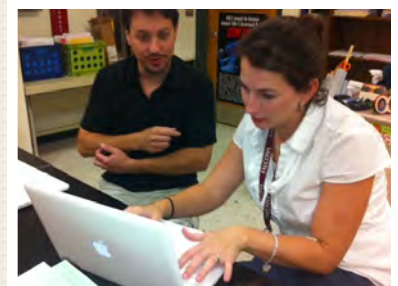
7TH GRADE SCIENCE



8TH GRADE SS



7TH GRADE LA



8TH GRADE SCIENCE

RIGOROUS CURRICULUM



IMPLEMENT THE TEACHING UNIT

1. INTRO UNIT & PRE TEST
2. ANALYZE PRE TEST DATA
3. SET GOALS FOR LEARNING
4. DETERMINE INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES
5. TEACH THE UNIT
6. MONITOR PROGRESS
7. CHANGE/ADAPT INSTRUCTION
8. POST TEST AND ANALYZE RESULTS OF POST TEST
9. PROVIDE INTERVENTION, ENRICHMENT, REMEDIATION

Teachers Design Units of Study

During the most recent Professional Development days, our teachers worked on creating rigorous units of study.

Under the teaching of Larry Ainsworth, expert on Curriculum Design and a leader with the Learning and Leadership Center, teachers designed units of study which aligned to the Common Core Standards. The Common Core Standards is a set of national standards that have been adopted by 46 states including Pennsylvania. Mr. Ainsworth shared that a rigorous curriculum “serves as both the detailed road map and the high-quality delivery system for ensuring that all students achieve the desired end: the attainment of their

designated grade- or course-specific standards within a particular content area.”

Rigorous Curriculum is an ongoing cycle based on using Pre-Test, analyzing Pre-Test data/results, teaching the unit, monitoring learning and progress, adjusting instruction to meet the learning needs of students, Post Test, analyze results from Post-Test, and providing intervention to students who did not meet the standards, and enrichment for students who were proficient.

(Continued on next page)

Units of Study Continued..... a closer look

You may have heard your child talking about taking a Pre-Test. A Pre-Test is an assessment a teacher gives before teaching a unit to determine what the child knows about the material before instruction. This is not a graded piece of work; rather it is used to assist the teacher in knowing what needs to be taught and whether or not enrichment is needed for students who score proficient on the Pre-Test. Students often earn a low score on the Pre-Test, this is to be expected since they have not been taught the material.

After the Pre-Test, teachers examine the results, set goals, and determine instructional strategies. It's important that teachers continue to monitor progress of students during the unit of study so they can adjust or change instruction to meet the learning needs of students.

The next step is to give students the Post-Test. This assessment is used to see if the student grew in their learning from the Pre-Test. Similar to the Pre-Test, this is not used for grading but a tool for the teachers to check on the progress and learning of students. Teachers should see a nice increase in the number of answers correct from the

Pre-Test to the Post-Test. Both assessments are typically only 10-20 questions and they are targeted toward the standards that are taught in the unit. The Pre-Test and Post-Test model clearly demonstrates a student's learning from the start of the teaching unit to the end. It's a thermometer on learning.

**THIS MODEL FOCUSES
TEACHERS ON THE
LEARNING NEEDS OF EVERY
STUDENT**

The last piece is for the teacher to provide intervention to struggling learners and extensions to students who were proficient or advanced. This is an important piece as teachers need to be focused on the learning needs of every student. Through this pacing of the unit, both the student and the teacher gain a nice understanding of areas needing improvement and enrichment.

Once this cycle is completed through Unit 1, the cycle begins again with Unit 2 and every unit following.

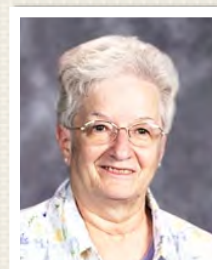


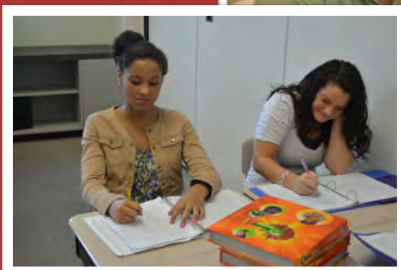
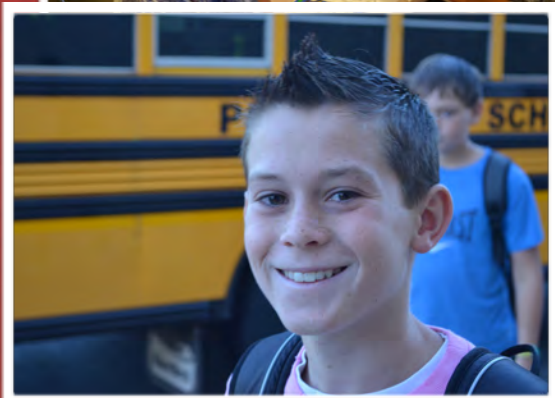
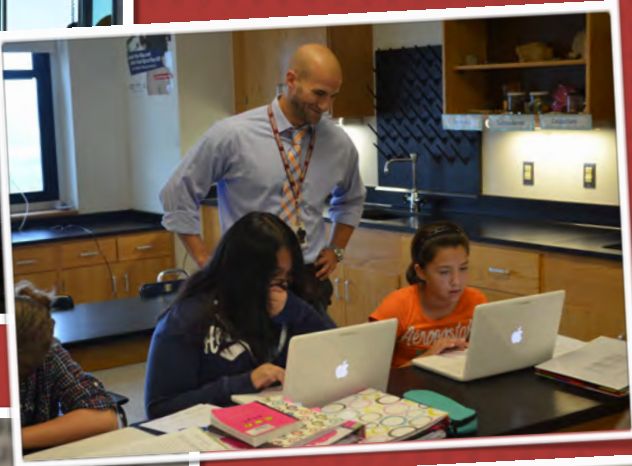
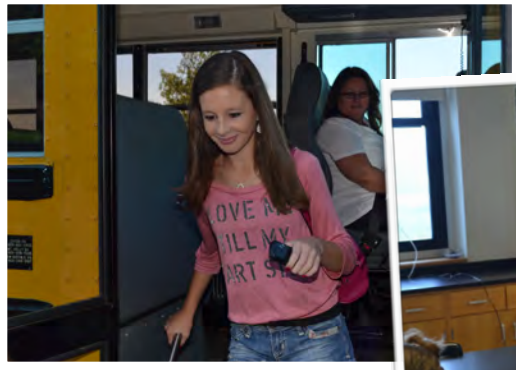
Calendar of Events for Fall 2011

Date	Event	Time
Friday, September 30, 2011	PTO Sponsored Back to School Dance	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 4, 2011	PTO Meeting in Library	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 12, 2011	2 Hour Early Dismissal	1:15 p.m. dismissal
Thursday, October 13, 2011	Picture Retakes	9:00-11:00 a.m.
Friday, October 14, 2011	PTO Fundraiser Deadline Mixed Bag Design	
Friday, October 28, 2011	Student Government Halloween Dance	7:00-9:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 1, 2011	PTO Meeting in Library	7:00 p.m.
Monday, November 7, 2011	No School for Students	All Day
Thursday, November 17, 2011	Parent Open House	8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Monday, November 21, 2011	Parent Conferences (No School)	12:00-8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 22, 2011	Parent Conferences (No School)	12:00-8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 23, 2011	No School for Students	All Day
Tuesday, December 6, 2011	PTO Meeting in Library	7:00 p.m.
Monday, December 12, 2011	Band/Orchestra Concert	7:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 15, 2011	Choral Concert	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 26-January 2, 2012	School Closed Winter Break	

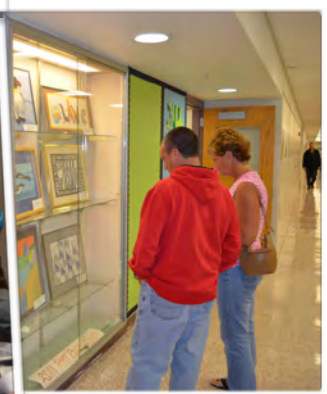
PGMS Office Team - Our wonderful secretaries will greet you when you enter the office

Mrs. Hicks (top photo), Mrs. Klingler (middle photo), and Mrs. Rhoads (bottom photo)



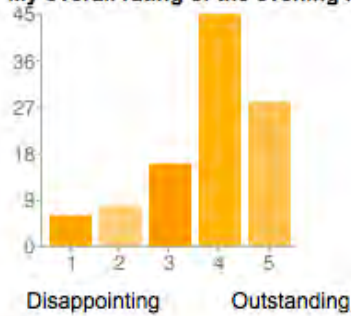


BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT 2011



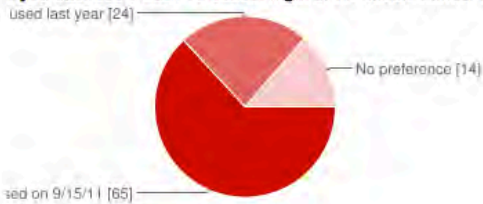
SURVEY RESULTS FROM BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

My overall rating of the evening is...



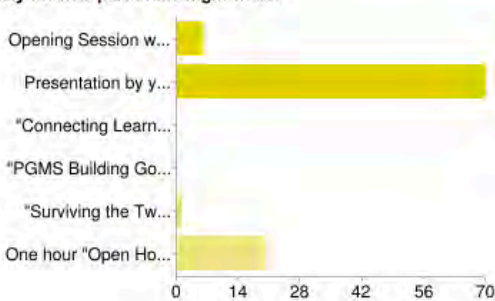
1 - Disappointing	6	6%
2	8	8%
3	16	16%
4	45	44%
5 - Outstanding	28	27%

If you attended a Back To School night at the Middle School before, let us know which format was your favorite:



I liked the schedule/format we used on 9/15/11	65	63%
I liked the schedule/format used last year	24	23%
No preference	14	14%

My favorite part of the night was...



Opening Session with the building principal	6	6%
Presentation by your student's Grade-Level Team	70	68%
"Connecting Learning At Home" presentation	0	0%
"PGMS Building Goals" presentation	0	0%
"Surviving the Tween Years" presentation	1	1%
One hour "Open House" time to visit classrooms	20	19%