

## **District Support Visit Report**

**County: Washington**

### *Schools visited:*

- Boonsboro Elementary School
- Boonsboro Middle School
- Boonsboro High School

### *Teacher Classroom Participation:*

- In the elementary school, 27 teachers, on all grade levels K-5, were observed by MSDE staff members.
- In the middle school, 32 teachers were observed. Content areas observed were in ELA, mathematics, algebra, social studies, science, Spanish, physical education, band, and art.
- In the high school, 44 teachers were observed. Content areas observed were English, Honors Government, US Studies I & II, World History, psychology, physical education, biology (standard and honors), Advanced Anatomy and Physiology, computer science, chemistry, Earth & Space Science, Honors Physics, French III, Spanish I & II, Japanese III, Agriculture Science, Forestry & Soil, Foundations of Technology, Accounting II, art, band, drama, and piano lab.

### *Participation at meetings:*

- The meeting with central office staff was well attended. Approximately 20 central office members were in attendance.
- Two elementary lead teachers and approximately 15 middle school teachers attended the meetings after the morning classroom visits.
- High school classroom teachers who had planning time at the end of the day voluntarily met with MSDE staff. There were three high school teachers in attendance.
- The Open Forum was well attended with staff from neighboring schools joining the conversation. Approximately 20 teachers were in attendance.

### *Summary of MSDE resources and support that teachers found most useful:*

- Materials from the summer Educator Effectiveness Academies
- Resources on Blackboard; MSDE resources have been placed on the county website.
- MSDE created lessons and lesson seeds have been useful in the county's curriculum work
- PARCC samples/prototypes

### *Summary of resources and support that district personnel and teachers reported they would like from MSDE:*

- Professional development needs from MSDE:
  - Levels identified for the webinar offerings (Awareness, Proficient, Advanced).
  - Special Education webinar on scaffolding the CCSS
  - ELL webinar--how to better help their students with CCSS.
  - Professional learning on small group instruction based on student needs. addressing skill gaps, and creating a student centered classroom

- Professional learning on Blackboard to show/model how to find resources
- ELA—professional learning on teaching writing and how to integrate standards
- Additional Resources Needed from MSDE:
  - A guide on how to more easily take current resources and add Common Core.
  - Unpacking standards (deeper than the frameworks)
  - Activities to help teachers understand the progressions documents.
  - Videos to show different ways to address the standards.
  - Best practices in applying the next Generation Science Standards and how to transition to using these
  - Disciplinary literacy--Integration of content
  - Strategies to challenge top learners.
  - Creating/Implementing rigorous lessons
  - Statewide focus:
    - A forum for cross-county sharing and collaboration
    - A unified effort to reach teachers, students, and parents
    - A bank of test items
    - Sharing of LEA materials/resources
  - Additional PARCC-like samples that incorporate multiple texts and represent the different grade levels/contents assessed
  - Tools for formative assessment and helping with the process of formative assessment writing
  - Parent resources:
    - Assistance with communication and helping to get parents on board
    - Resources to help parents better comprehend Common Core and STEM
  - Sample lessons for cross disciplinary work.
  - Scaffolding strategies/resources for special education
  - Authentic resources for foreign language
  - Good sample lessons from different grade levels on how to incorporate multiple texts for deep reading and writing.
  - Project based learning materials/resources

### *Overview/Key Messages*

- Teachers appreciated that MSDE visited and asked them what they need; they indicated that they liked putting a “face” to MSDE.
- Teachers are working very hard with the resources that they have and are eager to do a good job with the new standards.
- Students were working in collaborative groups, collecting data, designing projects and using technology strategically. There were few classrooms where the teacher missed the opportunity to create authentic learning experience for students, and the opportunity for students to learn from each other by working together. One MSDE staff member remarked, “The level of student independence observed during the elementary classroom visits was impressive.”