

2020 Quarter 1 Report

April 2020



Missoula County Public Schools
"Forward Thinking, High Achieving."

Executive summary

The first quarter of 2020 proved to be tumultuous. Despite the unprecedented challenges that have come with the coronavirus pandemic, University of Montana faculty and Missoula County Public Schools staff have **demonstrated resilience and dedication to students and families**. Prior to the pandemic, several productive activities occurred:

- Dr. Kate Brayko continued to forge **new relationships with universities, schools/districts, and communities in Montana and beyond** resulting in new partnerships for indigenous language development, all while strengthening existing partnerships/relationships.
- MCPS administrators and staff continued to demonstrate focus and dedication to **expanding course offerings and programmatic opportunities for students**, particularly around STEAM/Arts Integration activity.
- MTDA/EdReady continued to serve as an **exemplar school-university partnership** and state-wide online learning community through conference presentations focused on distance learning and dissemination of work currently underway in **providing individualized, online curriculum to underserved and vulnerable students** with MCPS and districts around the State of Montana.

Despite the heightened level of uncertainty going forward, UM and MCPS remain **committed to forging on as best as possible** with initiatives to enhance teacher candidate coursework, heightened community-based participatory research, and strengthened partnerships with educators and organizations.

Language Development

University of Montana & MCPS

- ✓ ELL Inclusion and Integration field experience was expanded to include 4 separate workshops facilitated by Drs. Stephanie Reid, Mary Neville, Kate Brayko, and MCPS staff, which were linked with the Language Arts Methods and Exceptionalities/Classroom Management courses at UM.
- ✓ Partnerships between Language Arts Methods candidates and Arlee Public Schools continued with Dr. Brayko visiting Salish classes in Arlee four times, forging relationships with teachers and students and planning for upcoming exchanges.
- ✓ Dr. Brayko presented a paper (co-authored with Adele Martin, Salish Teacher, Arlee Public Schools) entitled, “Connecting Communities through Indigenous Language Partnerships” at the *Critical Questions in Education Conference*. As a result of her paper presentation, Dr. Brayko was able develop opportunities to partner/consult with Arizona State, Seattle Pacific University, and the University of North Dakota teacher education programs.
- ✓ MCPS ELL Coordinators finished their online training, and the first MCPS full-staff training was held in March.
- ✓ Paxson Elementary School established a “train the trainer” plan for implementing the GLAD and AAPPL assessments. These assessment results will be shared with students’ families and will inform students’ language placements at Washington Middle School.

International Baccalaureate

MCPS

- ✓ All MCPS staff participated in K-W-L (Know, Want to Know, Learned) model inquiry training, which elicits students' prior knowledge of the topic of text, sets a purpose for readings, and helps students to monitor their own comprehension. Refresher trainings continued for classroom teachers focused on backwards planning and aligning IB units with the new ELA curriculum.
- ✓ 7 staff trained at Washington Middle School in use of online classes centered around service-learning projects.
- ✓ Lewis and Clark Elementary continues to work through the self-study process, working toward IB licensure; 2 full-time staff members participated in IB required training in Chicago.
- ✓ At Hellgate High School, access to IB courses overall continues to increase with 4 IB English Lang./Lit. teachers and 3 new IB Business, Art, and Arabic teachers. And, 8 Hellgate High School seniors are working towards IB Diplomas.
- ✓ MCPS's partnership with the UM Mansfield Center continues to grow – students are participating in the development of the Mansfield Sport Diplomacy program and refining the UM Innovate program.

STEM

University of Montana & MCPS

- ✓ UM faculty continued to provide PLTW training to Elementary Education teacher candidates in addition to a full-day workshop, which will lead to full PLTW certification for all of UM's elementary teacher candidates.
- ✓ Chief Charlo Elementary continues to implement STEAM as a foundation to learning pathways with expended grade level and building STEAM challenges as well as incorporating school-wide art integration strategies that expand upon their annual STEAM nights, usually held in April.
- ✓ MCPS organized and hosted a PLTW launch training at Jeannette Rankin Elementary. Kate Farnes and Chrissy Pucko provided the training to 14 MCPS teachers.

Arts Integration

University of Montana & MCPS

- ✓ Karen Kaufmann, Sienna Solberg, and Julie Robitaille accompanied MCPS K-8 principals Amy Shattuck, Kacie Laslovich and Pam Wright to Phoenix, AZ where they met with elementary and middle school principals and a Kennedy Center Arts Integration consultant experienced in arts integration, and they visited and observed various content classrooms with students modeling arts integration strategies.
- ✓ Kennedy Center Teaching Artist Melanie Rick trained Meadow Hill staff on the foundational structure of arts integration in the middle school classroom and introduced them to Reading Art. She also trained Chief Charlo staff to incorporate Reading Art as their next strategy of focus school wide.
- ✓ MCPS principals had planned for two teachers from their respective to attend the Kennedy Center training in June. This has been postponed due to COVID-19.

Project RECESS

University of Montana & MCPS

- ✓ Updated benchmarks due to postponement of activities by the COVID-19 outbreak are forthcoming.

School Safety

University of Montana & MCPS

- ✓ Dr. Dan Lee worked with Karen Allen and Dr. Rob Watson at MCPS, Lee Stark in Stevensville Schools, and Crista Anderson in Dixon Schools to identify each district's needs.
- ✓ Dr. Lee continues to liaise with the Missoula County Local Emergency Planning Committee and Montana's Office of Public Instruction as well as connect with the National School Safety Center.
- ✓ Dr. Lee also addressed the Western Montana Association of School Superintendents and the Montana Office of Public Instruction concerning the COVID-19 pandemic and district policy/procedure around safety.

Universal Design for Learning

University of Montana & MCPS

- ✓ Dr. Morgen Alwell trained 23 in-service teachers, all current graduate students, in UDL strategies. Students analyzed, designed, and refined lesson plans to include UDL features.
- ✓ Dr. Alwell continues to work with faculty through the online Engaging Teaching Practices course at UM. 10 faculty have completed the course, earning certificates, and reporting that UDL content has changed their teaching methods.

Early Childhood Education

University of Montana

- ✓ Dr. Kate Brayko continues to develop instruments and arrangements that support teacher candidate learning to facilitate language development and conceptual development in Elementary Education.
- ✓ Dr. Brayko has expanded ECE partners beyond LAB Preschool teachers to Disability Services for Students (DSS) staff and American Sign Language-English interpretation students from the University of Colorado, creating more inclusive tools and resources for LAB Preschool students and families.
- ✓ ECE teacher candidates contributed to various resources/tools on the LAB's online platform for students and families, all of which are sign interpreted so that all LAB Preschool students and families (including those who are deaf) are included.
- ✓ Drs. Brayko and Allison Wilson collaborated to launch an exploratory pilot study exploring the role of children's picture books with words and wordless books on candidates' interactive read aloud lesson planning.
- ✓ Dr. Brayko and LAB Preschool Director Kristin Dahl Horejsi spent sustained time planning for an upcoming invited talk at the Montana Librarians Association conference focused on building key knowledge about child development (including language/literacy development) for librarians.

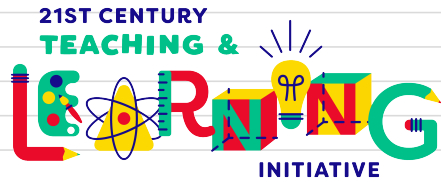
Digital Learning

University of Montana & MCPS

- ✓ 2 Willard teachers, 1 Big Sky teacher, Willard principal Kevin Ritchlin, and Executive Regional Director Julie Robitaille attended the Distance Learning Annual Conference (DLAC) in Austin, Texas with the MTDA staff.
- ✓ MTDA and EdReady staff participated in various DLAC presentations and panel sessions ranging from *Providing Equitable Access for Isolated Student Populations* to *Getting Ed Tech Initiatives Off the Ground* to *Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)* and *Differentiated Math/English Tools*.
- ✓ MCPS teachers and administrators who attended the DLAC met with MTDA/EdReady staff to collaborate and explore options for further implementation of Individualized Pathway Curriculum (IPC) at Willard High School and the potential to expand to other MCPS high schools.
- ✓ Kevin Ritchlin and Julie Robitaille met with MTDA staff at the end of March to discuss the implementation of the IPC.

21C Benchmarks

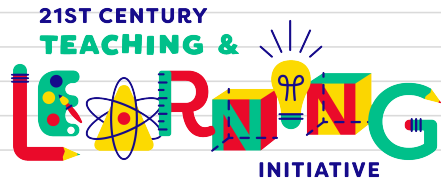
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/17PRG9T3oBlhMigsDSJ5p1OvN15xICj9bpxMHztIx7ec/edit?usp=sharing>



Longterm Goal:

Create a system of collaboration for 21st century learning among classrooms, schools, and university partners through the P-20 spectrum.

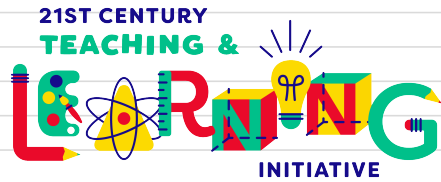
Initiative Deliverables	Year 2 Benchmarks	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Language Development					
UM Lead: Dr. Kate Brayko; MCPS Leads: Dr. Elise Guest, Karen Allen, Shirley Lindberg, Jana Edward, Kacie Laslovich; Arlee Public Schools Lead: Adele Martin					
Language Immersion					
<i>Build capacity in knowledge of language</i>	Provide GLAD training for staff at Paxson Elementary and Washington Middle Schools	Complete			
	Curriculum for Washington dual language classes	In progress			
<i>Build teacher capacity in district initiatives</i>	Summer professional development in GLAD				
<i>Develop and implement a language assessment plan</i>	Full implementation of AAPPL assessment for grade 5 at Paxson Elementary School	Complete			
English Language Learning and Indigenous Language Partnerships					
	Semester-long professional development course on responsive language instruction for teachers.	In progress			
<i>Amplify teacher supports for language learners through training and materials</i>	Study efficacy and impact of targeted professional development.	Ongoing			
	Grow and refine Inclusion and Integration Clinical Experience. UM candidates intern in local classrooms with a focus on differentiating instruction for linguistically diverse groups.	In progress			
<i>Bolster teacher preparation efforts by creating opportunities for UM candidates to directly support increasingly diverse K-12 student populations.</i>	Study efficacy and impact.	Ongoing			



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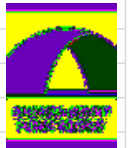
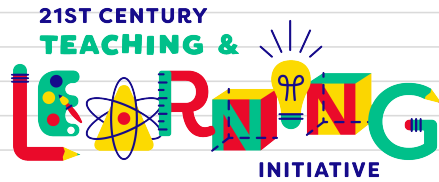
Initiative Deliverables	Year 2 Benchmarks	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	Establish language partnership between UM and K-12 schools in southern Montana	In progress			
<i>Cultivate partnerships between UM, public, and tribal schools to support language learning</i>	Study efficacy and impact of targeted professional development.	Ongoing			
<i>Dissemination of research</i>	Manuscript and conference paper preparation and presentation	Ongoing			
International Baccalaureate					
MCPS Lead: Dr. Elise Guest					
<i>Expand professional development for all IB teachers</i>	Expand Year 1 professional development practices to include the newly accredited Franklin Elementary School.				
<i>Confirm newly identified MCPS schools to meet IB candidacy requirements, as part of a strengthened vertical articulation</i>	Confirm Washington Middle School's IB accreditation as a Middle Years Programme school.	In progress			
STEAM					
UM STEM Leads: Dr. Martin Horejsi, Dr. Georgia Cobbs; MCPS STEM Lead: Julie Robitaille					
UM Arts Integration Lead: Karen Kaufmann; MCPS Arts Integration Leads: Julie Robitaille, Sienna Solberg					
STEM					
<i>Professional development for pre-service teachers</i>	Incorporate PLTW learning and teaching framework into science and math teaching methods courses at UM	Ongoing			



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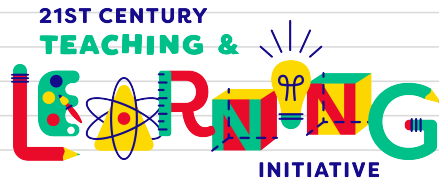
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	Professional development workshops for in-service teachers in Missoula	In progress			
<i>Professional development for in-service teachers</i>	Professional development workshops for in-service teachers around the region				
Arts Integration					
<i>Professional development for teachers</i>	Provide arts integration professional development for teachers regionally through Creative Pulse				
<i>Ongoing arts integration implementation and evaluation</i>	Continue arts integration development in elementary and middle schools with attention given to planning, feedback and continuous improvement through data analysis.	Ongoing			
<i>Regional arts integration conference</i>	Plan for 2nd regional arts integration conference	Ongoing			
School Climate					
UM Project RECESS Lead: Dr. Trent Atkins; MCPS Project RECESS Leads: Karen Allen, Barbara Frank					
UM School Safety Lead: Dr. Dan Lee; MCPS School Safety Leads: Karen Allen, Barbara Frank					
Project RECESS					
<i>Identify school sites</i>	Identify 1-2 elementary and/or middle school sites based on disciplinary referrals, consultation with school leaders, and playground observation (2-4 schools total)	In progress			



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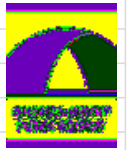
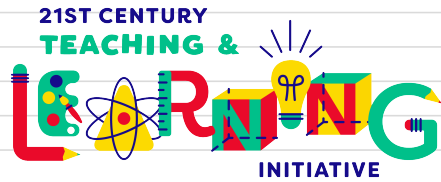
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	2-4 elementary education teacher candidates are assigned to identified RECESS school for their clinical placement				
<i>Teacher candidates work in RECESS schools</i>	Teacher candidates adapt and implement MTSS protocols in cooperating classroom and on playground				
	Collect and analyze School-Wide Information System (SWIS) data				
	Collect and analyze teacher candidate evaluation survey				
<i>Data collection and analysis</i>	Collect and analyze observational data				
<i>Dissemination of research</i>	Manuscript and conference paper preparation and presentation	Ongoing			
School Safety					
<i>Professional development for K-12 school staff and administrators</i>	Collaborate with middle and elementary school administrators and staff to identify critical needs in preventive and emergency response training	In progress			
<i>School safety retreat</i>	Offer tailored professional development workshops for middle and elementary school administrators and staff on effective practices in school safety and establishing measurable school-level goals				



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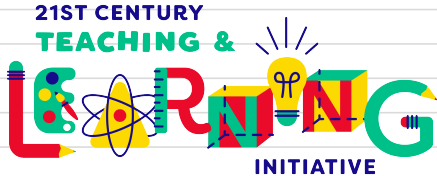


Initiative Deliverables	Year 2 Benchmarks	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
<i>Data collection and analysis</i>	Collect and analyze data to determine efficacy of practices and need for adjustment	Ongoing			
<i>Dissemination of research</i>	Manuscript and conference paper preparation and presentation	Ongoing			
Universal Design for Learning					
UM Lead: Dr. Morgen Alwell					
<i>Meta-analysis of existing research on UDL practices and technologies</i>	Manuscript revisions and resubmission/publication	In progress			
	Analyze data	In progress			
<i>Research on UDL applications in 4th and 5th grade classrooms with students identified with disabilities and those at-risk of failing school</i>	Manuscript preparation and submission	In progress			
<i>Research on UDL applications in middle school language arts classrooms with students with heterogeneous learning characteristics</i>	Design and conduct quasi-experimental study, collecting data on use of digital literacy tools in intervention and control classrooms	In progress			
	Professional development for small group of UM faculty to incorporate UDL features into the classes they teach	In progress			
<i>Small group of UM faculty analyze UDL practices and technologies in their content curricula and in their higher education classrooms</i>	Using a mixed methods research design, UM faculty analyze their content curricula and classroom practices and technologies against UDL framework	In progress			
Early Childhood Education					



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UM Leads: Dr. Kate Brayko, Dr. Jingjing Sun; MCPS Leads: Julie Robitaille, Karen Allen					
<i>Professional development for teachers</i>	Professional development workshops to develop understanding of the High Scope curriculum	Ongoing			
<i>Establish a kindergarten readiness assessment practices</i>	Implement and develop the use of a Kindergarten Readiness Assessment	In progress			
	Establish informal clinical sites with SpectrUM, Insectarium, Missoula Art Museum, etc.	In progress			
	Cohort 1 placed in ECE settings	In progress			
<i>Pre-service teacher education</i>	Data collection (formative and summative assessments of candidates' understandings and skills)	In progress			
Digital Learning					
UM Leads: Robert Currie, Dr. Jason Neiffer, Mike Agostinelli; MCPS Leads: Julie Robitaille, Kevin Ritchlin, Judson Miller					
<i>Professional development for teachers</i>	Support district teachers in tailoring learning courses and modules for students	In progress			
<i>Students take MTDA courses</i>	Students participate in courses tailored to their needs	In progress			
	Collect and analyze anonymized student course completion and pass/fail data	In progress			

					
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Initiative Deliverables	Year 2 Benchmarks	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	Analysis of anonymized student data on persistence across courses and high school graduation	In progress			
	Student Perception Survey data collected and analyzed	In progress			
<i>Data collection and analysis</i>	Teacher interview data collected and analyzed	In progress			