


21ST CENTURY  
TEACHING &



INITIATIVE

**Quarter 3 Report**  
**October 2019**



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

# Language Development

## University of Montana & MCPS

- ✓ Elementary Education candidates at UM began a new clinical rotation in MCPS working with English language learners.
- ✓ Dr. Kate Brayko conducted a workshop titled "Supporting English Learners in Content Area Classrooms" to over 30 secondary teacher candidates from a variety of disciplines, advancing UM's effort to improve preparation of teachers for diverse public schools.
- ✓ Dr. Brayko's work on Indigenous Language Partnerships is also in progress. She and others from UM are collaborating with Arlee Joint School District No. 8 to plan indigenous language exchanges that will take place fall 2019.
- ✓ With its new principal, Dr. Jana Edward, Paxson Elementary continues to serve MCPS as its primary dual language immersion school.
- ✓ Washington Middle School continues to build the Spanish Language Acquisition program for all students, with all students now taking a semester of Spanish. Also, Washington now has 18 students attending Sentinel High School for advanced Spanish instruction.

# International Baccalaureate

## MCPS

- ✓ The Phyllis J. Washington College of Education hosted the IB Summer Institute for MCPS teachers in August, which focused on high school math curriculum. This institute and professional development opportunity aligns with the MCPS training calendar which provides tracking and evaluation regarding IB training and recertification for MCPS educators.
- ✓ Franklin Elementary, Lewis & Clark Elementary, Big Sky High School, and Hellgate High School continue to offer International Baccalaureate programming in MCPS.
- ✓ Big Sky has seen significant increase in students enrolled in their IB diploma cohort. Despite a slight drop in diploma cohort numbers at Hellgate High School this year, overall enrollment in IB courses has increased.
- ✓ Franklin Elementary School and Washington Middle School are working toward authorization.

# STEM

## University of Montana & MCPS

- ✓ In September, Drs. Cobbs and Horejsi traveled to Ball State University to participate in a face-to-face PLTW master teacher training.
- ✓ Drs. Georgia Cobbs and Martin Horejsi conducted a 2-day *Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Launch* training for 12 elementary educators at Jeanette Rankin Elementary School along with Executive Regional Directors Julie Robitaille and Karen Allen.
- ✓ Aimed at PK-5 students, *PLTW Launch* curriculum facilitates a design-thinking mindset through compelling activities, projects, and challenges that build upon each other and relate to the world around them.
- ✓ 6 educators completed a post-training survey in which all respondents rated themselves at three or higher (on a scale of 1-5) on the question "how prepared do you feel?" to implement this unique curriculum.

# Arts Integration

## University of Montana & MCPS

- ✓ 30 Creative Pulse students participated in arts integration coursework, with 16 completing arts-integrated projects and graduating with MA degrees.
- ✓ UM hosted an orientation and training for 15 teaching artists who will be working in local schools.
- ✓ The UM College Arts and Media worked with MCPS to host the second annual Cultural Mosaic Conference, bringing over 80 participants to Missoula to develop arts-based curriculum.
- ✓ The relationship with the NASAA Professional Development Institute and Any Given Child affiliate chapters in Fresno, CA, Portland, OR, and Austin, TX was strengthened through numerous meetings and conference calls conducted by both UM and MCPS faculty and staff.
- ✓ Chief Charlo Elementary continued its STEAM implementation through teachers' professional learning, student engagement, and community involvement in arts-based curriculum development and implementation.

# Project RECESS

## University of Montana & MCPS

- ✓ Dr. Trent Atkins met with MCPS administrators to begin collecting data at Lowell Elementary School centered around specific student needs at that school.
- ✓ These ~~This~~ data will inform the development of intervention strategies for 4th and 5th graders at lunch and recess to redirect their interactions and play in positive directions.

# School Safety

## University of Montana & MCPS

- ✓ Dr. Dan Lee created a course entitled, "Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents for Key Decision Makers."
- ✓ In addition, Dr. Lee met with Officer Mark Puddy, MCPS' security specialist, to determine the district's school safety needs and training opportunities. He also met with Nick Holloway, Deputy Emergency Services Coordinator for Missoula County, to establish a stronger relationship with local law enforcement and safety professionals.
- ✓ Dialogue with MCPS Executive Regional Directors is planned to learn more about specific concerns/thoughts regarding district safety and ways that the UM Safe Schools Center might partner with MCPS to implement specific safety initiatives.

# Universal Design for Learning

## University of Montana

- ✓ Dr. Morgen Alwell developed and ran a new course titled, “Engaging Teaching Practices” with a foundational focus on UDL, with 500 UM faculty and administrators enrolled in the course.
- ✓ Dr. Alwell also presented to a delegation of Egyptian university representatives titled “UDL: A Tool for Faculty to Improve Course Accessibility and Inclusion.” The delegation of professors, administrators, and government officials were seeking guidance and information on how to open their campuses to students with disabilities.
- ✓ Dr. Alwell has also begun conducting a research synthesis of K-20 applications of UDL, establishing a database and identifying inclusionary criteria for empirical research and resources.
- ✓ Conversations between Karen Allen, an MCPS executive regional director, and Dr. Alwell are planned to assess areas where MCPS might incorporate greater UDL practice and programming.



# Early Childhood Education

## University of Montana

- ✓ Dr. Kate Brayko has been working with 50 teacher candidates in K-8 and PK-3 programs at UM, Flathead Valley Community College, and Helen College, facilitating their professional learning related to fostering young children's language development and thinking.
- ✓ This has generated immediate, positive impact on facilitated teacher-child interactions, as observed by LAB Preschool educators and demonstrated in candidates' reflections and course work.
- ✓ Data being collected will inform further development of curriculum, as well as planned empirical research agendas.

# Digital Learning

## University of Montana & MCPS

- ✓ **UM and the Montana Digital Academy (MTDA) have begun the implementation of the Affiliation pilot project, aimed at providing a new digital course format to allow the local district (MCPS) to deliver flexible blended digital curriculum through MTDA systems.**
- ✓ **This quarter has focused on the needs assessment of MCPS, as well as the planning and building out of MTDA infrastructure to allow for this new format. The result of the MCPS needs assessment determined that Willard Alternative School would be the focus school in which to implement the Affiliation model.**
- ✓ **MTDA and MCPS have established a monthly meeting schedule for project leads to evaluate pilot project progress, address deliverables, and determine next steps.**
- ✓ **Julie Robitaille and Kevin Ritchlin of MCPS collaborated with Montana Digital Academy staff to create the timeline and implementation plan for the Affiliate pilot project, with special considerations regarding master schedule impact, teacher selection and training, and identification of student participants.**