

Assistant Superintendent Report

Region One Schools

April 2020

The principals, teachers, paraprofessionals and other support staff have responded to the new environment of distance learning with remarkable positive energy and care for all of our students and their families. Students are rising to the occasion with the strong support of their parents. While the new learning paradigm presents some challenges and understandable stress as we make the transition in a period of uncertainty, it is clear that everyone is working together to minimize the difficulties and ensure that we all make it through the Covid 19 crisis as best we can as a community.

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Teachers in all grade levels are following the written curriculum, but making modifications based on their judgment about what will work best in a distance learning environment and in alignment with guidelines issued by the CT Department of Education. Modifications include:

- a much slower pace;
- a combination of synchronous (real time online instruction, discussion, individual student meetings) and asynchronous (use of videos and other materials) instruction;
- fewer, smaller assignments (weekly or over a period of days); and
- no summative assessment, only formative evidence of learning progress.

Principals and their staff have developed weekly schedules for students and they are working with families to help them manage expectations and to support progress with the technology learning curve for all involved.

We are still waiting to hear from the CT State Department of Education with respect to how to manage grading at this time.

I have kept in close contact with other Assistant Superintendents in the Region One RESC to discuss and share our experiences.

Professional Development

The following summary represents activities I have undertaken to support teachers and paraprofessional staff:

- Regular online meetings with groups of teachers (by grade level or content) each week;
- Curation of EduPlanet, our professional learning platform, to provide resources regarding all aspects of distance learning for all disciplines and grade levels; and
- Provision of Friday workshops hosted by Region One teachers to provide professional learning support regarding a variety of topics.

Staffing

I am working with Principals to ensure that open positions for the 2020-2021 school year are posted. We will begin to identify candidates to be interviewed next week and will conduct initial interviews online. We will modify the interview and selection process should schools be closed beyond the April 20 date.

Career/Work Experience Program

Please click on this [link](#) to read Dr. O'Neill's report.

English Learner Program Coordination

Mrs. Huber has been working closely with teachers to help support EL students and their families as they navigate distance learning.