



*Curriculum Update*  
*January, 2019*  
*Setting New Standards of Academic Excellence*  
*Volume 2-No. 6*

I had a conversation with a colleague that moved districts this fall. When I asked him how he liked his new district he said not only do they have high standards and hold everyone accountable, but they are also kind. His words stayed with me and made me think about what I see on a daily basis here in Ashland. There are a lot of places where kindness isn't part of the culture of the school. Ashland is a unique place in which we have high standards for everyone and we are also kind. Do not think that this does not matter and don't take it for granted. Thank you again for what you do on a daily basis.

## #APSLEARNS

Our Professional Development theme for the year is *Pathways to Student Success*. In addition to our in-service days, book studies, and Twitter Chats, I have set up monthly themes with weekly sub-topics. These are similar to the Reimagine, Redesign, and Reinvent messages from last year. However, for the 2018-2019 school year we are offering PDP's if you write a brief reflection on what you learned and how it can be applied in your classroom or practice. You need to complete 20 write-ups to earn 10 PDP's and you will receive an additional PDP for every 2 entries you complete. [Attached is the document](#) you will use to record your entries to be submitted in June of 2019 for PDPs.

The following are topics on which you can reflect and submit your reflection:

- CASEL has created an SEL framework for schools to use. It is comprised of 5 core competencies: self awareness, self management, responsible decision making, relationship skills, and social awareness. This week we will focus on self awareness. According to CASEL it is defined as: "The ability to accurately recognize one's own emotions, thoughts, and values and how they influence behavior. The ability to accurately assess one's strengths and limitations, with a well-grounded sense of confidence, optimism, and a "growth mindset." Attached is an article on incorporating [self awareness](#) into your classrooms. How can goal setting help students to succeed in your classroom?

- This week we will focus on self management. According to CASEL it is defined as: “The ability to successfully regulate one’s emotions, thoughts, and behaviors in different situations — effectively managing stress, controlling impulses, and motivating oneself. The ability to set and work toward personal and academic goals.” Attached is an article on incorporating self management into your classrooms. How do you assist students in staying organized and tracking tasks?
- This week we will focus on responsible decision making. According to CASEL it is defined as: “The ability to make constructive choices about personal behavior and social interactions based on ethical standards, safety concerns, and social norms. The realistic evaluation of consequences of various actions, and a consideration of the well-being of oneself and others.” Attached is an article on incorporating responsible decision making into your classrooms. How can you Give students a range of options for completing and submitting assignments?
- I went to a workshop with [Dr. Nicki Newton](#). She is the author of several books on Guided Math Strategies and Practices. In the workshop she said, “ there is a difference between getting the math and getting the answer.” How do you in you in your classrooms, regardless of what you teach, make sure that kids “get the math” and not just “get the answer?”

## NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY



- New content has been added to the webpage for ELL students and parents. I hope this is a useful resource to everyone.
- On January 10th, second year teachers participated in our cross-district 2nd year mentoring program. We have partnered with Milford, and Mendon-Upton on this project. The day started with a review of *Kids Deserve It*; teachers worked together reviewing and discussing the first 5 chapters of the book. Teachers spent 2 hours visiting classrooms for observations. The last part of the day was spent discussing the importance of student agency.
- Middle School teachers have been using Newsela as a supplemental resource in their classrooms. This product is a great resource to get kids reading and encourage choice. There is a free version; it is worth a look at.
- This month students at the Mindess took their second iReady assessment. Through this assessment we will be able to see how students have grown since the start of the school year and what still needs to be done between now and June for everyone to be at grade level.
- Thank you to all the presenters at our January PD Day. The feedback has been incredible and people should be proud of the work that they did. 71% of people reported that the information was useful, 70% stated that would likely implement the information into their lessons, and 67% would recommend the presenters to a colleague. I hope people found the day useful.

- Last month teachers from the Pittaway, Warren, and Mindess all took a survey to see what they valued in a literacy program. We met on January 8 to look at the survey and create a rubric to be used as we evaluate programs. Beginning next month we will have vendors and educators come in to meet with staff on their programs. My hope is to have the list narrowed down to 2 by March for us to be able to go out and see these products in action in classrooms.

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING LIBRARY



[It's never "It is What it Is" When it Comes to Students](#)

[When Anxiety in Children Looks Like Anger, Tantrums, and Meltdowns](#)

[The 10 Most On-Demand Skills of 2019, According to LinkedIn](#)

[As Technology Becomes Easier to Use, Our Depth of Learning Needs to Continue to Increase](#)

[Students Learn From People They Love](#)

[Establishing a Culture of Questioning](#)

[The only place for a classroom "equality mindset" is a museum](#)

[A powerful way to unleash your natural "creativity" Ted Talk](#)

[Sir Ken Robinson: How to create a culture of valuable learning.](#)

[Are you monitoring relationships with your students?](#)

[These are the skills for future work, according to the World Economic Forum](#)

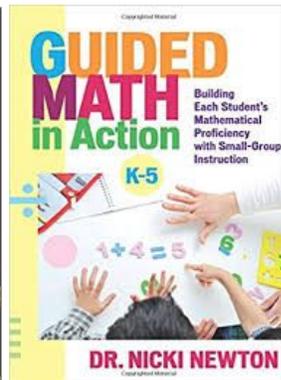
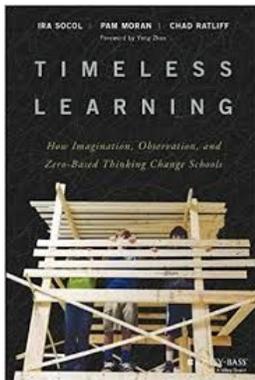
## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



- Ashland has teamed up with The Education Cooperative (TEC) to offer three web-based, self-paced courses available for you to access at your convenience. Each course offers 15 PDP's for which a certificate will be generated for those participants who score 80% or better on the course assessments. Upon completion of the course you will receive a certificate to use as proof that you satisfied the course requirements. Completion of these courses will satisfy the recertification requirements of 15 hours of ELL and 15 hours of SPED-related professional development. [Click the link](#) for more information on the classes.
- Several people have asked for a portuguese class to learn how to communicate with our Portuguese and Brazilian community. Keefe Tech is offering night classes in this area. Attached is the link to their [Night School Program](#).

- [Free PD Opportunity: Integrating Computational Thinking in Science and Math, Grades 1-6](#)
- We will be doing a book study on Guided Math starting next month. And email will go out shortly on information about this study.

## CURRENTLY READING



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT



“Technology will not replace great teachers but technology in the hands of great teachers can be transformational.”

**George Couros**



