



FROM THE NEST

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PROFICIENCY MODEL K-8

IT'S LIKE RIDING A BIKE!

How do you know when someone is proficient at an activity? You accomplish this by defining an acceptable level of performance and then instructing them in those expectations, modeling the outcomes, allowing the person to practice, reinforcing positive behaviors, negating negative behaviors and refining those in between. Most people understand this concept in the world of physical skills. We know a child is proficient in bicycle riding when they can ride the bicycle unaided without crashing. There were a number of steps required for the child to reach this level however. The child had to be taught about bicycle riding and all the fine motor skills required to do it effectively. Someone had to model for them the correct way to ride. Ultimately, they had to try it themselves and fall, get up and try again and again and again, all the while someone was coaching them and correcting them and most importantly cheering them on. Then one day it all comes together and the child rides their bike on their own and soon thereafter they become proficient in bicycle riding. What I have never understood is why we think that teaching mental skills is any different. It is not, or at least should not be.



As most of you know when children walk into Arlington Community Charter School this fall things will be a little different. We will incorporate a proficiency teaching and learning model that will ensure that every child is learning at their appropriate level and paced by their own abilities. No longer will we base our year on time served, but we will judge success on content learned and mastered. The learning targets will be clearly defined. Teachers will instruct our students in the skills needed to achieve those targets. Teachers and students both will serve as models, as students working collaboratively have proven again and again in research as being one of the most powerful learning tools we have. Students will be allowed to try and struggle without being punished by an arbitrary grading system. They will correct and revise and learn until the teacher and the student can both show that the student is proficient in the required skill. In the end we will see our students have a deeper understanding of concepts. They will see multiple ways of solving problems. They will develop creativity and self-management skills. Our students will have greater self-confidence as a result of "riding the bike" on their own.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- First day of school
August 22, 2011
- Arlington School Board Meeting
September 12, 2011

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TECHNOLOGY

The world is full of technology. It is being utilized in almost everything we do and we cannot even predict the ways it will be utilized in the future. I have always been frustrated by the amazing power of technology and the limited access our children have to it in school. Arlington Community Charter School has established a technology plan that will end that access limitation.



The grade school received 80 Ipad touches last year for students to use in classrooms on a daily basis. We have enhanced that program by providing Ipads for teachers to use as well as providing a few desktop computers in every room so students will not have to wait for the computer lab to become available. Every room will be equipped with a projector for displaying digital work as well.

The high school has received 60 laptop computers for the students, again to be used on a daily basis in class. The students will check out their computer in the morning and will return it at the end of the day. These computers will not be taken home except in special circumstances and with knowledge of the parent. The standard internet filters for school use will be in place as long as the computers are attached to our network. We will work diligently to teach our young people about appropriate internet use.

Both the grade school and high school libraries will also receive a technology upgrade. We will be receiving digital readers that will give our students access to 14,000 books. The students will be able to tell the librarian what book they would like to read and, if it is part of our digital collection, she will place it on the digital reader for the student to use. This will increase our students' access to books exponentially.

These new tools will help prepare our students for the ever changing world of tomorrow.

SPORT SPECIFIC PE/ATHLETICS

This year our middle school athletics will be structured slightly different. Within our Proficiency Model, our social learning core will fall into the second half of the day. Physical education will be the last period of the day. During this period our students will be exposed to the fundamentals of sports as they pertain to fitness, conditioning, dynamic flexibility, strength training, and individualized concepts.



At the end of the normal scheduled physical education time, those students who choose to be a part of the overall team aspect of the sport will stay for the second half of practice. It is at this time the coaches will expose our athletes to larger group drills, team concepts, and team organization.

It is our hope that through this process we are able to increase the number of participants within our co-curricular activities. This gives our students another opportunity to be a part of something good. Participating in our co-curricular activities provides our students another avenue for learning concepts that will help guide them to appropriate decision making, self-management, group management, self-discipline, and social skills.

Understanding how hectic schedules can be during the school year, our goal in this process was to provide more time for you with your child. Middle school practices will end at 4:30. Please make sure you familiarize yourself with our new eligibility process and the expectations for your student athlete. The way our proficiency model is set up, every student will be given appropriate guidance to be successful.

ACCS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Arlington Community Charter School is reaching out. With the start of the new school year comes the introduction of our new Community School. Our Community School is designed to provide lifelong learning opportunities and activities for our patrons. We would like to structure these opportunities around the specific needs and wants of the community.

What to expect from the Community School?

The Arlington School District values the community and is striving to bring fun and exciting opportunities to you. We understand the difficulty in traveling the distances necessary to get plugged into programs, classes and the like. We are making an effort to bring those things to you. Already in the works for our Community School are group fitness classes, senior citizen fitness class, adult computer education, couponing class, and a foreign language class. Our goal is to bring highly qualified or certified individuals to facilitate each class or program.



What we need from you?

In order to bring programs to you, we must first know what you are interested in. A community interest survey will be sent out to better understand the needs and wants of the community. We can best serve you if you are able to take the time to fill them out and return them to us. It is through this information that we will determine which programs to offer.

How will you know what is happening?

As we begin to solidify the programs offered through the Community Schools a calendar will be produced. The calendar can be accessed through the website or by electronic mailer lists. There will be a place for you to fill out your email address on the surveys. You can also email me at any time and request to be put on the email list.

Who do I contact for information on the Community School?

The Director of the Community School is Travis Reeser, Principal. He can be reached at 541-454-2632 or by email at treeser@arlington.k12.or.us. If you have ideas that you feel could benefit our community and provide an opportunity that we don't have, please let him know.

BREAKFAST CHANGES



The district will serve free breakfast every day of school in the Grade School cafeteria from 7:45 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.. No breakfast will be served at the High School.

Arlington School Dist. 3
1200 Main Street
PO Box 10

Phone: 541-454-2632
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BOX HOLDER
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INTRODUCING OUR NEW STAFF

Travis Reeser	School Principal/Community School Director
Teren Humphrey	Second Grade Academic/Reading Specialist
Erin Ploederer	School Counselor (moved from Special Ed Teacher)
Ruth Vettrus	Special Education Teacher
Russell Albright	Spanish Teacher/Credit Recovery/ Community School Teacher
Mariah Shandy	Clerk

AYP

ARLINGTON'S OVERLOOKED AGAIN

If you follow the news, you probably have seen that most schools in the State of Oregon did not make AYP (Annual Yearly Progress). This is the way the federal government measures the effectiveness of schools. It is a combination of several factors including academic performance, attendance and graduation rates. Oregon was not alone in this failure to meet the guidelines. Almost every state in the country struggled with this measure.

Arlington School District was among those that met every category of AYP. Congratulations are deserved by our excellent students and staff for their hard work.

