

April Staff Development Newsletter

April 1, 2025

A message from Matt

Teaching is one of the most rewarding professions—but let's be honest, it's also one of the hardest. By the time April rolls around, many teachers feel exhausted, frustrated, and overwhelmed. The long stretch between spring break and summer can feel like an uphill battle. But during these challenging moments, it's important to pause and reconnect with the reasons we became educators in the first place.

April Fatigue Is Real

The end of the school year is in sight, yet there's still so much to do. Standardized testing, final projects, and student burnout all add to the weight we carry. The enthusiasm of the fall has faded, and even the most passionate teachers may find themselves questioning their energy and patience. If you're feeling drained, know that you're not alone—this is a tough time of year for many educators.

Our Community Values Us

Despite the struggles, it's important to remember that teachers are deeply valued. Whether it's a heartfelt note from a student, a supportive message from a parent, or the camaraderie of fellow educators, our work does not go unnoticed. We are shaping lives, inspiring young minds, and fostering the next generation of thinkers and leaders. Even when the job feels thankless, we are making an impact.

Why Did You Become an Educator?

Every teacher has their own "why"—the reason they stepped into this profession. Maybe you wanted to inspire a love of learning, be the teacher you never had, or create a safe space for students. Reflecting on your personal reasons for teaching can help rekindle your passion and push through the tough times.

Lean on Your Support System

You don't have to navigate this season alone. Lean on your fellow teachers, celebrate small wins, and remind yourself that the hard days don't define your impact. Take moments to recharge, whether that's stepping outside for fresh air, journaling about positive moments, or simply laughing with your students.

You Are Enough



It's easy to feel like you're not doing enough, but the truth is—showing up every day, doing your best, and caring for your students is more than enough. Your work is valuable, and even when you don't see the results immediately, know that you are making a lasting difference.

As we push through these final months of the school year, let's hold onto our "why" and lift each other up. The finish line is near, and the impact you're making will last far beyond the classroom.

10 Reasons Why Teachers Love Teaching

As you read through these reasons, think about your "why."

1. Making a Difference

Teachers love shaping young minds and making a positive impact on students' lives. Seeing students grow academically and personally is incredibly rewarding.

2. Inspiring Curiosity

Teaching allows educators to spark curiosity and a love for learning in their students. When students get excited about a subject, it makes the teaching process more enjoyable.

3. Building Relationships

Teachers develop meaningful relationships with their students, forming bonds that can last a lifetime. These connections help create a supportive and engaging classroom environment.

4. Lifelong Learning

Teaching keeps educators constantly learning, whether it's new teaching methods, technology, or subject matter. This continuous growth keeps the profession dynamic and exciting.

5. Creativity in the Classroom

Teachers have the freedom to use creative approaches to make learning fun and engaging. From hands-on activities to innovative lesson plans, creativity keeps teaching fresh and enjoyable.

6. Seeing Student Progress

Watching students overcome challenges and achieve their goals is a deeply fulfilling experience. Small victories, like a student grasping a difficult concept, bring immense satisfaction.

7. Job Variety

No two days in teaching are ever the same, which keeps the profession interesting. Each day brings new challenges, lessons, and opportunities to interact with different students.

8. Community and Camaraderie

Teachers often work in close-knit communities, forming strong friendships with colleagues. This support system makes the job more enjoyable and fosters collaboration.

9. Sense of Purpose

Teaching gives educators a strong sense of purpose, knowing they are contributing to the future. Shaping the next generation provides a deep sense of fulfillment and pride.

10. Memorable Moments

From funny classroom moments to heartfelt thank-you notes from students, teaching is full of special memories. These moments make all the hard work worthwhile and keep teachers motivated.

Math Curriculum

The math curriculum team has been through professional development on effective practices, examined the Nebraska standards for math, unwrapped those standards, analyzed both print and digital samples, and heard presentations from several vendors. Through this process, they have selected the following materials to get feedback from parents and recommend to the board for purchase. I am thankful to this team for their time and commitment as well as the work still to come! Below you can see a little about each of the programs we will be recommending.



enVision Math 2024 K-5 Problem-Based and Visual Learning

Grounded in problem-based and visual learning that enable students to gain a deeper understanding of math concepts, the newly updated *enVision Mathematics* K-5 also now features new resources to encourage student-led learning both in the classroom and at home



enVision Math 2024 6-8 Encourage Student Choice

enVision Mathematics Grades 6-8 makes math relevant to students with new resources to encourage student choice and to support learning both in the classroom and at home. It's all available on our newly-enhanced, award-winning Savvas Realize® Learning Management System



Reveal Math 9-12 (McGraw-Hill)

The principles of *Reveal Math*® derive from the latest research on how students learn best—through productive struggle, rich tasks, and mathematical discourse. *Reveal Math* is a high school math curriculum that empowers educators to uncover the mathematician in every student through powerful explorations, rich technology, and timely and insightful differentiation opportunities. The unique approach of *Reveal Math* ensures students don't just meet the standards—they master them.

Patriotic Holidays

Nebraska Revised Statute 79-724 requires the following:

Appropriate patriotic exercises suitable to the occasion shall be held under the direction of the superintendent in every public, private, denominational, and parochial school on George Washington's birthday, Abraham Lincoln's birthday, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, Native American Heritage Day, Constitution Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving Day, or on the day or week preceding or following such holiday, if the school is in session.

There are no patriotic holidays in April.



Matt Dominy

Matt is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

