8th Grade Teachers,

If you recall, last week we had a scheduled "meeting of the minds" regarding 8th grade science. At this meeting, we discussed two very important topics:

1. Adjusting 8th grade pacing to address effective coverage of curriculum prior to EOG, especially for Goals 6 and 7 (Given that these are the areas we spend least time on and the areas we seem to rush through the most)

2. Recommending projects and/or curriculum to cover after EOG to ensure adequate student engagement for ALL students regardless of remediation or acceleration

For the second topic (#2 above), we did have some discussion but did not finalize this discussion. Several ideas were presented to include:

- Implementation of the "Weirdo" Curriculum Unit shared on the DPI website or another book unit (Deb Nahikian may have a unit she can share with us?)

- Coverage of high school curriculum, specifically physical science concepts

- Long-term projects for more in depth research and/or laboratory and inquiry exposure

For the first topic (#1 above) we discussed in detail a revised pacing. Below is the outcome of this discussion. Please keep in mind that this idea is shared with you as an option to allow adequate coverage of Goals 6 and 7 prior to the EOG; however it will require you to spend a bit less time on content during 1st and 2nd nine weeks. Given that the EOG is given earlier this year than usual (second week of May) and spring break falls later in the year (last week of April), it is a significant concern that we are losing much of the 4th nine week period where this content is expected to be taught. I will be happy to meet with you at your school to assist in revisions to your planning in order to accomodate this proposed pacing. Your feedback is certainly welcome and appreciated.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Recommended Revision to 8th Grade Pacing** | | | | |
| **Recommended Closure Date** | **Concept** | **Goal** | **% on EOG** | **GCS Calendar –**  **Nine Week Window** |
| October 15 | Chemistry and Matter | Goal 4 | 25% - 30% | 1st –August 19 to October 28 |
| December 21 | Hydrosphere | Goal 3 | 28% - 32% | 2nd –October 29 to January 19 |
| February 25 | Earth’s History | Goal 5 | 20% - 25% | 3rd – January 24 to March 29 |
| March 31 | Cells / Microbiology | Goal 6 and Goal 7 | 16% - 24% | 4th –March 30 to June 10 |
|  |  |  |  | *EOG Testing is*  *May 11 - May 16* |
| **Recommended Review Dates for 8th Grade EOG** | | | | |
| **Recommended Review Date** | **Concept** | **Goal** | **% on EOG** |  |
| April 1 – April 7 | Chemistry and Matter | Goal 4 | 25% - 30% |  |
| April 11 – April 15 | Hydrosphere | Goal 3 | 28% - 32% |  |
| April 18 – April 21 | Earth’s History | Goal 5 | 20% - 25% |  |
| May 2 – May 6 | Cells / Microbiology | Goal 6 and Goal 7 | 16% - 24% |  |
| *EOG Testing is*  *May 11 - May 16* |  |  |  |  |