

Equity, Curriculum and Instruction Department
Reported at December 2, 2020 Board Meeting
Directors Ms. Jenn Goforth and Mr. Marcos Vargas

- A pilot of GO Formative for Montclair High School has been secured. GO Formative is an assessment tool for online testing that includes a question bank and tools to create online assessments for students using multi modes of questioning.
- In the elementary schools, teachers are piloting Nystrom's *Young Citizens*, an exciting elementary social studies program built around physical and digital components, to meet every classroom's needs.
- In the middle schools, teachers are piloting myWorld *Interactive*, the digital version of our middle school social studies program, that encourages students to explore their world, expand their thinking, and engage with social studies content and the C3 Framework, which uses an inquiry-based approach to teaching social studies.
- Dr. Stephanie James-Harris, Executive Director of the NJ Amistad Commission, provided middle school and high school ELA and social studies teachers professional development around the NJ Amistad Law. She focused on ways to infuse the history of Africans and African Americans into the curriculum using an interdisciplinary approach between ELA and social studies. She recognized Montclair community's rich history in the struggle for equality and its significant contributions to the establishment of the Amistad Law.
- Visual and Performing Arts teachers are engaging students in vocal, dance, instrumental, artistic and dramatic expressions by way of leveraging the most current technology so that students can shine in this arena. Many of our teachers devote hours in synthesizing these individual performances into one harmoniously synchronized demonstration of learning.
- Despite the inability to board buses and travel for off-site field trips, our students continue to enjoy rich, immersive experiences in the Humanities thanks to our community partners like The Montclair History Center, The Montclair Public Library, The Yogi Berra Museum, and the Montclair Art Museum who are creating engaging, virtual field trips for students both live and recorded.
- Administrators were recently trained on how to effectively use the reporting tools of Renaissance Learning STAR Assessments to support instructional programming and student needs.
- We expanded our license for Gizmos from Explore Learning. We have used this resource for the high school for several years and recently expanded licensing for our Middle Schools. Gizmos provides teachers with online tools to conduct virtual labs.
- All middle school students have a science lab kit. This kit includes materials to support at least one science lab that can be conducted at home. This includes providing basic measuring tools as a ruler and dropper among other items.
- Math teachers are continuing to provide instruction based on focus skills needed for grade level.