Fall Literacy Update and 2019-2020 Information

September 3, 2019

Dear Teachers,

We are looking forward to a new school year! We hope you have had an enjoyable summer, and we are looking forward to "taking the year by storm" with you. :)

As you begin the year, we have a few important updates, links and reminders. See below:

- **2019-2020 GRADE LEVEL CALENDARS:** This year's grade level calendars are posted on the PPS Literacy Coach Website. Based on teacher feedback, the updated calendars reflect places where clarity or a shift in timing was needed. In particular, you will want to note that grades 4 and 5 have recently updated calendars dated August 2019. Be sure you have the correct version of those calendars. When reviewing these calendars, **please be sure to read pages 2 and 3.** These explanation pages are essential to reading the calendars accurately and to understanding the options within them. For those of you working across grade levels, you will find the most up-to-date information under the K-5 Quick Reference Materials tab.
- **2019-2020 ASSESSMENT EXPECTATIONS**: Updated assessment expectations can be found under the Assessment Expectations page.   You will find the Assessment Schedule with windows and Testwiz due dates at the bottom of that page as well as under the K-5 Quick Reference Materials page.
  - K and 1 teachers, for this year, you will **NOT** enter data for phonics assessments into Testwiz. Please house all phonics assessment documents in the white literacy folders.
  - All teachers should note that the literacy assessment calendar window opens Sept. 9. Our recommendation is to begin your Units 1 in reading, writing (and phonics, if applicable) right away and establish your conferring schedule and routine this week before beginning assessments. Then, next week, you can substitute your regular conferences for assessment conferences.
- **STORIA**
  - All students who have a Google ID should be able to access Storia. Remember to give new students access by making sure their names are checked in your class list when you go into your Educator account in Storia. Then you must click "Launch" under the Storia icon on your Educator page. Please contact your literacy coach for support with this. You may find the documents on our Literacy Coach website useful in troubleshooting and supporting students in accessing Storia at home.
  - Storia is an excellent resource for giving students access to both fiction and nonfiction texts that go beyond your classroom library! It also allows you to teach students how to interact with and understand digital texts. You may want to develop a system through which students have a designated time/day to read digital texts on Storia regularly during Reading Workshop, using your available classroom computers. The

routine and expectation for this will be important in supporting students' comfort with this type of interaction with text.

- **ROLLING OUT UNITS OF STUDY IN PHONICS**: As you know, all K and 1 teachers will implement the new *Units of Study in Phonics* this year. The curriculum calendars reflect the pacing of the *Units of Study in Phonics* alongside the reading and writing units. We are also beginning the rollout of the *Units of Study in Phonics* for Grade 2 with a small group of teachers this year. We are very excited to continue our work in strengthening our phonics instruction in the early grades!

- **SAVE THE DATE!** [TEACHERS COLLEGE READING AND WRITING PROJECT FALL REUNION](): **October 19, 2019. Keynote Speakers Peter Reynolds and Lucy Calkins:** This incredible (free!) professional development opportunity is open to all, twice a year in NYC at Teachers College. There are hundreds of sessions to choose from that relate directly to implementing Reading and Writing Workshop (including Units of Study) in your classroom. No registration is required. If you would like to attend the fall reunion, please reach out to us and we can fill you in on tips for traveling.

Have a wonderful start to the year everyone!
~Natalie Lacroix-White and Keri Stack