EDUCATION Matters
in the Southwestern Union Conference
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Perceptions Matter

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Vice President for Education



Each spring the SWUC schools collect perception data through the administration of surveys. Perception data are important to continuous school improvement because it can tell us what students, staff, and parents are thinking about the learning organization. After analysis of the data, it can be aggregated with the other categories of data (demographic, student learning, program/process) to yield an overall data profile for the school. The data profile, in conjunction with the mission and vision, then serves to inform the development/revision and implementation of a school CSI Plan.

I recently attended the virtual World Education Summit 2022, sponsored by Osiris Educational. During the conference, educational leaders from around the world highlight trends and issues from their respective contexts. Authors also conduct book talks on recent educational publications. One of the sessions this year gave an overview of the Osiris Global Learning Survey, which is one of the largest surveys of student learning (N=29,000) ever to be undertaken. Professor John Hattie led out in the development, administration, and analysis of the survey. The focus of the 36 survey questions was on the development of the student as a learner, which is a shift from focusing solely on the examination of performance and the acquisition of knowledge.

Data were collected in nine key areas within the categories of teachers, learning, and safety: teachers (teacher help, enthusiastic teachers, teachers are fair), learning (challenge, high expectations, aiming high, learning), and safety (school is safe, errors as opportunities). The preliminary results and recommendations are noted in the chart below.

RESULTS
1. Students aim high and want challenge but see errors as negative and school as less fair and safe.
2. Students decline in their development as learners across their school careers.
3. Leadership of learning matters.
4. Boys are more confident learners than girls.
5. District leadership seems to care little about learning.
RECOMMENDATIONS
1. Introduce impact on learning into the school evaluation process.
2. Put learning impact at the center of learning.
3. Ensure leaders, teachers, and students all have high expectations.
4. Agree in what it means “To be a great learner” in this school (as part of the visioning process).
5. Develop and implement work on learning strategies.
6. Provide clarity on the role of errors and mistakes in the learning process.

There are some parallels between the items on this survey and the SWUC surveys. As you analyze your surveys, compare the overall results noted above with your responses. What are the similarities? What are the differences? What implications can be drawn from the results of your surveys? How does learning interface with the standards-based approach? (Data analysis forms are available here.)
The final report of the Osiris Global Learning Survey will be available here in early May. If you are inclined to want more details, please access the report. In addition, there are opportunities for other schools to become part of the data collection pool in phase two of the process.

EDUCATION Matters

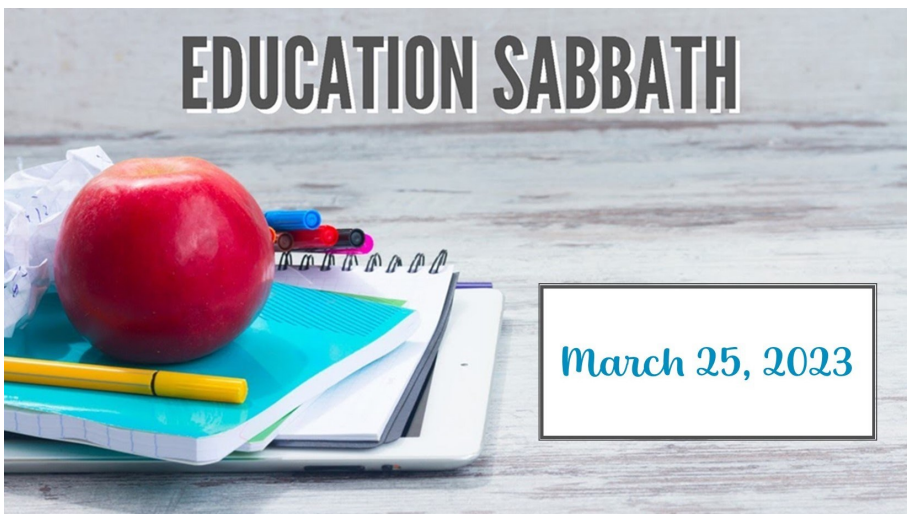
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PURPOSE



Camp — Leadership Camp, for academy SA and class officers, is scheduled for September 15-18, 2022 at Lone Star Camp in Athens, TX. Covid has prevented an in-person Leadership Camp for the past two years, but the hope is that we can resume the in-person camp this year.



The GC calendar designates March 25, 2023 as Education Sabbath.

Camporee

The NAD Pathfinder Camporee is scheduled for August 5-11, 2024 in Gillette, Wyoming.



Intro to Teaching Course

SWAU will be offering Intro to Teaching as a dual credit course for academy seniors beginning fall 2022. The academy teacher that facilitates the course will need a master's degree with an administrator certificate.

NAD Convention

The NAD Convention is scheduled for August 7-10, 2023. Please see the attachment for additional information.



PLAN

Versacare Grants

Versacare grants are available for innovative projects. Grant applications for 2023 will be accepted after July 15, 2022. Visit the website to review the opportunities.

ACE Scholarships

ACE K-12 Scholarships are available for qualifying students. Applications for 2022-2023 are due April 30. Visit the website to review the opportunities.

Robotics

Robotics grant applications are due July 31, 2022. This is a great opportunity to equip your classroom or school with a robotics kit.



Horticulture/Agriculture Class

If you would like to get your students interested in gardening, there is a great curriculum produced by the Adventist Agricultural Association. Both the secondary and elementary curricula have been reviewed by the SWUC Curriculum Committee. You can find information about this curriculum at acquaintingagriculture.org.

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PRACTICE

STANDARDS-based Learning

Educator Webinars

Please see the attached flyer for more details on the standards-based learning webinars for 2022-2023.

Parent Webinars

There is a new webinar series for parents being planned for 2022-2023. The webinars are scheduled for Thursdays from 7:00-7:30 pm. The dates and topics are as follows:

September 29, 2022 — Standards-based Learning
November 17, 2022 — Social/Emotional Health
February 23, 2023 — Internet Safety/Social Media
April 27, 2023 — Connections Between School and Home

A flyer will be available in the near future. Please invite your parents to tune in and benefit from these relevant topics.



Nuts & Bolts Institute

A Nuts & Bolts Institute is planned for July 18-20, 2022. The Institute will focus on sustaining Continuous School Improvement (CSI) and Standards-based Learning (SBL) through Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). Earn two hours of academic credit by attending. Reserve a place now by contacting your superintendent. Please see the attached flyer for more details.

PRODUCT

CSI Report Card



A CSI Report Card is available to self-assess your CSI efforts.

MAP Resources

Resources for Teachers
Resources for Parents

map GROWTH

2022-2023 Testing Windows

Fall—August 22-September 9, 2022
Winter—January 9-27, 2023
Spring—April 24-May 12, 2023

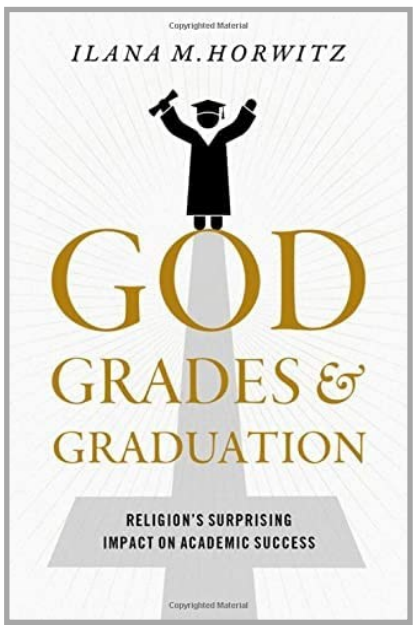
Data Collection

Spring is a great time to process and aggregate your data for the current school year, so you have that part of the CSI cycle in place for the coming year. Include the demographic profile you were sent, survey data when you receive it, and MAP data after the spring testing. We'll discuss program/process data in the future. You were also sent a template for processing and aggregating data. This is good evidence to include in your self-study when accreditation rolls around.

Data on Accreditrac

Accreditrac will now host all of your school data—demographic, survey, MAP, program/process. The SWUC Office of Education will upload the demographic and survey data each spring as it becomes available. NAD is working on the integration of MAP data on the Accreditrac platform. As mentioned, more on program/process data in the future. To access the uploads on Accreditrac, go to your school profile page and click on the "SW Union Documents" box.

Spotlight on Professional Books



Title: *God, Grades, & Graduation: Religion's Surprising Impact on Academic Success*, 2022
Author: Ilana M. Horwitz

The author responds to the question, "What impact does a religious upbringing have on . . . academic trajectories?" Based on 10 years of survey and interview data, Dr. Horwitz offers an account of how teenagers' religious upbringing influences their education pathways from high school to college. She estimates that approximately one out of every four students in American schools is raised with "religious restraint." These students orient their life around God so deeply that it alters how they see themselves and how they behave, inside and outside of church. Visit the SWUC website for more book reviews.

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News From Around the Union

Arkansas-Louisiana

Superintendent Stephen Burton says "it's out with the old and in with the new" at the conference. He and wife Rebecca (the administrative assistant) are officially retiring August 1. They will be facilitating the transition to new superintendent and administrative assistant, Tim and Angeliqua Kripps. You may recall Tim was the superintendent of education for Oklahoma Conference and has now taken up residence in the conference rent house while they look for a home to purchase.

"Rebecca and I want to express our thanks for all the well wishes and gifts of appreciation for our service as superintendent and administrative assistant for the education department of the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference. We will always treasure the friendships and memories we have made over the years."
STEPHEN BURTON, Superintendent of Schools ,
Arkansas-Louisiana Conference

Bentonville Comets Robotics
Bentonville was excited to get back to in-person robotics competition this Spring! Two years ago, we were prepped and ready to travel to Ohio. Bags were packed and rental vans acquired. To read more about the robotics competition and Bentonville Seventh-day Adventist School, click on the title above.
RENEE OTTS, Principal, Bentonville SDA School

Southwest Region

When students take an active part in setting their own goals, it allows students to make clear connections between immediate tasks and future accomplishment and success. To read more about the success at New Orleans Adventist Academy, you can see their story on SouthwesternAdventistEducation.com, The Importance of Setting Goals With Students.
CARLA DRAKE, Principal, NOAA

Texico

Benefits of Outdoor Classrooms
Why should your school have an outdoor classroom? The answer is straightforward. Outdoor classrooms promote and facilitate a free learning environment for teachers and students. Studies (Burdette & Whitaker, 2005) prove that an outdoor classroom provides opportunities that:

- Stimulate problem solving
- Induce curiosity, creativity, and the use of the imaginations
- Lead to critical thinking about the environment
- Stimulate brain development
- Develop positive academic attitudes and establish greater knowledge gain

To see pictures of El Paso Adventist Jr. Academy's outdoor classroom go here.
JUANITA CAMACHO, Head Teacher, EPAJA

Retirements

For many years we have been blessed by the excellent service of two superintendents — Stephen Burton and Derral Reeve. They have both retired, Stephen from Arkansas-Louisiana Conference and Derral from Texico Conference. We will miss you watching over our educators, our schools, and our students. May you both enjoy all the good things that retirement brings.
THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR TALENTS WITH THE SOUTHWESTERN UNION!

Texas

The Texas Conference second annual Determined cycling tour was a success for all involved, especially for the seventeen cyclists who rode over 400 miles. This momentous event works to make Adventist Education accessible to all students in the Texas Conference, regardless of socio-economic status. They began their day early April 3rd departing Scenic Hills Christian Academy in San Antonio, Texas and ended the tour late April 8th in Arlington, Texas at Burton Adventist Academy. Their route took them through numerous towns where local churches gathered in support and provided carb-loaded meals to help the cyclists re-energize.

The cyclists were able to visit five Texas Conference schools and one Southwest Region Conference School where they were "cheered-in" by students and spent time talking about cycling, health, and the importance of Adventist Education. Cyclists sent daily videos to the schools in the Texas Conference telling them about the cycling journey and what they were encountering. Students from schools sent daily videos of encouragement and prayer to their cyclist.

The cyclist motto was, "We ride for our health. We cycle for their future." They truly worked to encourage people to view exercise as an important physical and mental health practice. The Determined tour is fundraising to create an endowment that will provide scholarships for students in the Texas Conference school system. Please, follow the link to view cyclists' fundraising pages. All donations go to the Determined campaign. *ROBYN-ANNA GRIMSLEY, Associate Superintendent*
Texas Conference

Lone Star Camp First Lego Robotics Tournament
Only one week away! The undercurrent of excitement was both exhilarating and daunting. Robot parts, sketches of the innovation project, and small groups practicing their presentation speeches was the precursor for our first Lego Robotics tournament. Every week, Coach Dobson patiently and diligently worked with us, as we discovered the hidden beauty of coding; while simultaneously learning the invaluable life lessons of trust in God, time management, teamwork, and perseverance. The gift of Adventist Education is preparing us to become leaders and innovators that will create a better world for tomorrow! As third place winners, Orlando, Florida, here we come! North Dallas Adventist Academy – Green Guardians Robotics Team!
RENEE WHITING, Head of School, North Dallas Adventist Academy

2022 ASCD Conference
I really enjoyed my time at the 2022 ASCD conference. It was such a positive experience being able to recharge and share knowledge with others away from school. The sessions were practical, engaging, and pertinent to current times. I loved the enthusiasm and great sense of humor of some of the presenters. This conference gave me time to reflect and grow in many aspects of personal and professional life. The icing on the cake was being able to go back to the beautiful city of Chicago and being able to personally meet my cousin, the US Secretary of Education, Miguel Cardona! *LIZZETTE GARCIA, Principal, Killeen Adventist Jr. Academy*