

# JOHNSTOWN-MONROE LOCAL SCHOOLS

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## **Johnstown-Monroe Board of Education approves ‘Mathematics Focus Plan’**

Johnstown-Monroe students will soon benefit from a series of initiatives intended to enhance the effectiveness of current mathematics instruction curriculum.

Following a presentation and extensive curriculum committee discussion, the Board of Education approved adoption of a “Mathematics Focus Plan.”

Another aspect of the multi-component effort will involve eventual adoption and implementation of a K-12 Math Series, intended to be ready for the 2023-24 school year.

Superintendent Dr. Philip Wagner said the field of potential series publishers has been narrowed to two potential providers. Staff and administrators are continuing a process of due diligence in researching both series, working to ensure they conform to state guidelines before making an eventual final selection. That process has also involved speaking directly with series’ publishers, Dr. Wagner said.

<b>Mathematics Focus</b> Spring 2023	
<b>Johnstown Intermediate School</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide before or after school 1-hour targeted math instruction and intervention<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Sessions 1 hour before school or sessions 1 hour after school</li><li>○ Two days per week</li><li>○ Duration – February 27 until spring break</li><li>○ Minimum 6 teachers needed</li><li>○ Depending upon space, student could ride secondary bus in morning</li></ul></li><li>• Additional resources - iReady</li></ul>	<b>Johnstown Elementary School</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• K-2 - Math focus embedded into school day</li><li>• K-3 - Continue 30 minute per day targeted small group instruction in math foundational skills</li><li>• Grade 3 – Provide 20 minutes per day, emphasis on math problem of the day (all students)</li><li>• Grade 3 - Provide 1-hour after school targeted math instruction and intervention – up to 2 days per week- beginning February 27</li><li>• Grade 3 - Provide 1-hour after school targeted reading instruction and intervention – up to 2 days per week – beginning February 27<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ 8-10 teachers needed</li></ul></li><li>• Additional resources - iReady</li></ul>

# Mathematics Focus

Spring 2023

## Johnstown High School

- Provide after school 1-hour targeted intervention and instruction for Algebra I and Geometry
  - 2 days per week
  - 2 teachers needed
  - Duration – February 21 – April 27<sup>th</sup> (16-18 sessions)
  - Consider increasing frequency up to two weeks prior spring break
- Utilize ALEKS as resource for Algebra

## Johnstown Middle School

- Provide math intervention for targeted groups in grades 6, 7, 8, during SMART period
  - Two days per week
  - Monday focus on current topics and skills
  - Tuesday spiral back to address power standards and learning gaps
- Provide after school 1-hour targeted math instruction and intervention
  - 2 days per week
  - 2 teachers needed
  - Duration – February 21 – April 27<sup>th</sup>
- Utilize ALEKS as a resource

### **District to focus on tighter residency verification; eyes eventual end to ‘open enrollment’**

J-M Schools is beginning steps toward a more rigorous and focused screening to ensure students enrolled within the district do in fact live within the Johnstown-Monroe School’s local boundaries.

“Just based on past experience, I think we need to do more when it comes to residency, ensuring that everyone we have in the district really is within the school district boundaries,” Dr. Wagner said. “I’d like to step up some of our procedures.”

Superintendent Wagner suggested the possibility of working with a neighboring district which has a dedicated infrastructure in place, including a “residency officer” who can, if needed, make home visits to ensure students are living within the stated place of residence.

Among other strategies under consideration to ensure residency compliance is establishment of an anonymous online tip system.

Dr. Wagner cited another Licking County District that went through a similar exercise that revealed over a two-year period, more than 300 students were living outside that school district’s boundaries.

“I want to be responsible to our taxpayers,” the superintendent said, “and make sure the people who are here should be here.”

Board member Ruth Ann Booher said, “I think we have struggled with that for quite some time. It’s really a big issue.”

Board President Tim Swauger agreed, “It sounds like it’s the responsible thing to do for our taxpayers.” He pointed out that as the district has already ceased offering open-enrollment from kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade already, it would be wrong to permit a situation that would allow those outside the district to become enrolled here by “circumventing the system.”

### **Gradual phase-out of open enrollment likely coming to high school**

Regarding open enrollment, it will continue only for grades 9-12 within the upcoming school year, but as the high school moves toward capacity, the board’s stated intention is to gradually end open enrollment at the high school-level through a “phased-in approach.”

Swauger said it is hard for him as a board member to consider eventually advocating for facility expansion, if open enrollment remains a district option. “Open enrollment works for us...until you have to add a classroom or add a teacher,” he said.

Board members Anne Thomas posed some questions regarding accommodation of scheduling of open enrollment students under current processes.

Board Vice President Amanda Davis said, “As long as Anne and I have been on the board, we’ve said we do anticipate at some point we will not be able to offer (open enrollment).”

President Swauger stressed again to parents of 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade students considering open enrollment, “It’s not going to be much longer before we start phasing it out.... You need to be aware of that...This is coming.”

### **Committee Updates**

The Buildings, Grounds & Safety Committee met on February 7, 2023. Board Member Thomas said discussion of safety studies was a key topic. The district will also be facing possibly needed replacement of a Bobcat, she cautioned.

Updates were also shared from the Curriculum and Insurance committees. A motion was made and adopted to change insurance consulting firms, to become effective March 1, 2023.