

Administrator Workshop

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Planning a Middle School Dual Immersion Curriculum

Based on Social Studies Thematic Units and Backwards Design for Language Learning

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Based on work with Mercer International Middle School Team in Seattle and
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University of Washington STARTALK Program

Background

Mercer International Middle School in Seattle is preparing for incoming 6th graders from Beacon Hill International School from Two-Way Dual Spanish and Dual Immersion Mandarin programs

Challenge: How to create an engaging curriculum in an “Immersion Continuation” context (one period of Spanish or Mandarin language per day in 6th grade)

Solution: Focus on Social Studies thematic units and backwards design for language learning

Social Studies Context

- Social Studies State Standards
- Social Studies Recommended Scope & Sequence
- Suggested Unit Outlines (6th grade)
- Classroom-Based (OSPI-Developed) Assessments (CBAs)
- World-Class Instructional Strategies

World Languages Context

- “Refreshed” World Readiness Standards for Language Learning
- Focus on developing language proficiency through performance opportunities (tasks)
- 21st Century Skills
- Common Core State Standards (ELA)
- Planning for Learning: Curriculum

2013 ACTFL Resource for Curriculum Planning

*The Keys to Planning for Learning:
Effective Curriculum, Unit, and
Lesson Design*

by Donna Clementi and Laura Terrill

Key Question: Who are YOUR learners,
and what do they need?

Immersion Students Coming to Mercer Intl MS Fall 2014

- Current 5th graders at Beacon Hill International School
- Spanish Two-Way Dual Language Program
 - At least 50% are native or heritage Spanish speakers
- Mandarin Immersion Program
 - Some students speak Mandarin, Cantonese, or other dialects of Chinese
- Many students are learning Spanish or Mandarin as a 3rd language

Proficiency Targets in Seattle

Seattle Immersion (proposed 1/24/2013)

Targets	NL	NM	NH	IL	IM	IH	AL	AM
3rd Grade								
5th Grade								
8th Grade								
9th Grade								
10th Grade								
11th Grade								
12th Grade								

Based on the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines:

NL = Novice Low, NM = Novice Mid, NH = Novice High

IL = Intermediate Low, IM = Intermediate Mid, IH = Intermediate High

AL = Advanced Low, AM = Advanced Mid

What will the incoming 6th graders be capable of?

- Based on STAMP testing results with other 5th grade immersion students in Seattle, the majority will likely meet the 5th grade proficiency targets: Novice High to Intermediate Low
- **They are capable of *performing* at the Intermediate level**
- What do language teachers need to do to meet the needs of students at the Intermediate level?

Backwards Design

1. Identify desired results.
 - > Aim for building Intermediate-level proficiency in all communication modes
2. Determine acceptable evidence of learning.
 - > Develop Integrated Performance Assessments (IPAs) as summative assessments based on the Social Studies Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs)
3. Plan learning experiences and instruction.

Curriculum Development Plan

Working with STARTALK curriculum consultants, use the *Keys* curriculum template to create a 6th grade Curriculum Plan and 4 Units based on themes from the OSPI Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs) for Social Studies

- Unit 1: People on the Move
- Unit 2: Enduring Cultures
- Unit 3: Meeting Needs and Wants
- Unit 4: Why History

Next Steps

(for the Mercer Team)

- Develop lesson plans for each unit
- Identify and develop resources in Spanish and Mandarin
- Finalize the Unit Summative Assessments and plan Formative Assessments
- Begin drafting 7th and 8th grade Curriculum Overviews (using a similar process)

Challenges:

- Lack of teaching materials (especially for Chinese)
- Teaching stereotypes (“How can we teach without textbooks?!”)
- Lack of teachers who are ready to develop lessons and teach new courses

Questions?

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View resources at:

[https://sites.google.com/site/duallanguagecurriculumwa/
seattle-projects/mercer-international-middle-school](https://sites.google.com/site/duallanguagecurriculumwa/seattle-projects/mercer-international-middle-school)