

Kieleidoscope
January 1, 2015

The New Year is upon us and with it come many exciting opportunities to look forward to in the Kiel Area School District. One of the instructional initiatives is our continued development and implementation of Personalized Learning.

Personalized Learning is one of the goals of the District's Strategic Plan that was developed last school year. Progress toward this goal has been made through learning from other districts, primarily the districts in CESA # 1. Personalized Learning is an instructional approach, one that will take time for the teachers to learn. It is a departure from one-size-fits-all and requires that the teachers develop learning plans based on the unique strengths and needs of each student.

In January, our staff will be learning more about Personalized Learning during the scheduled professional development day. Personalized Learning is a method that provides each student a customized learning path in which achievement is measured by proficiency-based progress. A team of Kiel teachers and administrators has attended workshops at **The Institute** at CESA #1 in Pewaukee, Wisconsin to build the knowledge base that they will then share with the rest of our teachers. Through the CESA #1 Institute our Personalized Learning Team has learned the core components of this personalized method of instruction. They collaborated with other districts on the process and have developed ideas to bring back to our district.

This year is a learning year for the teachers. Personalized Learning done with fidelity takes time to develop. A strong knowledge base and comfort level with this method of instruction is needed for implementation. As a district we are learning together to make sure this is done correctly. The Professional Learning Community culture that has been built will allow this learning to take place within collaborative teams. Teams of teachers will develop lessons and assessments as a group, implement them in their classrooms and report progress back to their colleagues in their professional learning team.

Professional Learning Teams meet on Wednesday afternoons during early release. We know that being part of a professional learning community is a culture and not just a once a week event. We are just beginning the Personalized Learning journey, and have already seen positive results from teachers who have embraced the method in their classrooms. These teachers will share their methods with their colleagues at the January in-service. Professional growth is a focus for us in 2015. The New Year will be packed with new learning for the staff as well as the students and this is very exciting! Happy New Year!