



# Professional Development Spotlight

Southern Boone School District

Fall 2016

## MS Science Team Meets Szydlowski and Next Generation Standards

Over the summer, the middle school science teachers, Acton, Schauer, and Metcalf, attended a seminar for adapting current science content and lessons to the newly adopted Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The seminar was led by Mike Szydlowski, the Columbia Public Schools Science Coordinator. Mr. Szydlowski demonstrated for the seminar attendees how to modify existing lessons to fit the NGSS criteria. The NGSS places an emphasis on modeling and describing processes and phenomena...not just restating facts and definitions. The NGSS also places more focus on technology and engineering concepts. All of this contributes to increasing engagement in the classroom. Instead of giving students facts and information, the teacher guides the students in discovering, recognizing, or understanding the concepts themselves. At the conclusion of the seminar, Mr. Szydlowski offered advice to the middle school teachers regarding the distribution of standards among the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, as CPS has been implementing the NGSS for several years.



Mr. Acton and Mrs. Metcalf collaborating on how to model experiments safely!



## Nine Lane Highway vs. Dirt Road

Mike Rutherford challenged us in August to find a skill or talent we had that we can move to a nine lane highway. What instructional talent have you chosen to improve or to help a friend with? If you are still stuck on a dirt or gravel road...find a skill you can implement easily and quickly. Whatever your talent is, make sure you share it and teach it to others. How can you do this? Discuss it during a team meeting, model it during a lesson, video your talent and share it with a mentee, provide a copy of the resource to a neighboring teacher, the list is endless! Don't be surprised if you see me in the hallway or visiting your classroom and ask YOU what your Nine Lane Highway Talent is. I know you have one! Dr. Roth



## Second Grade Team Attends Debbie Diller Literacy Workshop



The second grade team at SoBoCo primary had the opportunity to attend a Debbie Diller (Author of *Growing Independent Learners: From Literacy Standards to Stations*) workshop in Columbia. Prior to attending this training, the second grade team mulled over the question of “How do we best utilize our time and space for quality literacy instruction?” Spending a full day, front and center, with one of the greatest literacy coaches in the country answered this question and so many more!

The training focused on two parts: utilizing your space, and creating work stations of quality. We learned how to plan for our space using a group approach – and were so excited that evening that we rushed back to our classrooms and rearranged four second grade classrooms in only a matter of 2 hours! This group-think approach put the FUN in FUNCTIONAL both for us teachers and our students!

During the second half of the training, we dug deeply into the new Missouri Learning Standards to create powerful lessons that could easily be turned into student work stations. We learned how to plan, pair, and practice literacy work stations until they became habits for our students. Because of this amazing training, our literacy work station time in our classrooms is meaningful, engaging, and fun for our students.

We are thankful to work in a district that supports our continued education so we can stay on the cutting edge of our ever-changing world. Having opportunities to better ourselves as teachers and bring fresh ideas into the classroom ensures that SoBoCo remains one of the top performing districts in the area. At the primary, we live our mission of “One Team. One Goal. Student Success.” in every way we can. We hope this is the first of many professional development opportunities for our second grade team that will bring us closer to success for every student.