

Increasing Student Success Through Innovative Curriculum Mapping

Chalk.com Customer Success Story



Susquehanna Township School District

www.hannasd.org

TYPE: PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

LOCATED: HARRISBURG, PA

LEVEL: GRADES K-12

SCHOOLS: 4

STUDENTS: 2,737

TEACHERS: 250

Products used:



Curriculum



Admin



Planboard



Analytics

Susquehanna Township School District (STSD) is a district in Pennsylvania located on the outskirts of Harrisburg. It operates four schools, all within the K-12 range. Its mission is to provide a diverse, world-class education to every learner. The district recognizes the importance of staying fresh and relevant when it comes to education. Key decision makers engaged Chalk to help bring to life one of its core values—be a leader in innovation and technology.

Challenge

Operating multiple schools across different grade levels requires active management to provide the best learning opportunities for students. The wide range of learning styles and ages calls for flexibility and adaptability all the way from the educators to the technology used to support learning. Increasing student success is at the heart of every change being implemented and planned for the district.



Dr. Tamara Willis

Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum and Instruction

“Our vision is ‘World class, every day in every way.’ We are constantly looking at ways to be more innovative in our tech and seeking ways to improve student learning.”

Teachers in the district recently began using new software to better prepare students to meet state standards, and the administration engaged local community members in weighing in on curriculum opportunities. However, it was missing a robust and customizable curriculum management solution. More specifically, it was lacking an efficient way to determine if the curriculum being used by teachers was maximizing students' potential for success.

While documenting the curriculum was a great first step, these documents had quickly become static and challenging to integrate into teacher's daily lesson planning. It was hard to create a holistic view of what students were learning and how that related directly to their performance. Susquehanna Township SD's teachers and administrators were restricted when it came to making informed decisions related directly to the district's core values.

“The success of every learner.”

- Susquehanna Township School District's Mission



Solution

Chalk worked with Susquehanna Township SD to make great strides in its curriculum management process to be in line with Pennsylvania's state standards—also known as “eligible content”. Chalk's Curriculum app now offers teachers a centralized location for content that they can now utilize in their day-to-day instruction.

By working directly with both administrators in the district's office and educators in the classroom, Chalk was able to customize the curriculum with all key users' goals top of mind. The district-wide changes are focused on improving areas in the curriculum by tracking the content being taught in the classroom and measuring it against the eligible content requirements. Administrators are engaging in this process as a step towards achieving greater academic success, one area being higher state test scores.

Elementary Math and English Language Arts state standards were the primary focus of the initial implementation. Once the maps were set up in a way that worked effectively for Susquehanna Township SD's teachers, the application scaled to higher grade levels. There are still a few smaller-sized departments waiting to experience the benefits of consolidating curriculum maps in Chalk, but teachers are using many maps in their daily lesson planning.

Results

Together, Chalk and STSD have done a complete audit on the district's maps and identified gaps in relation to the state's eligible content requirements. After updating the curriculum content, a majority of the departments within the district now have complete and operational curriculum maps.

“When I arrived at the district teachers were teaching various iterations of the state standards and it was also being taught at varying levels of expertise; we’re now changing that. All of it goes back to curriculum and alignment.” - Dr. Tamara Willis

Upon uploading content into Chalk, district administrators were immediately able to indicate areas of the curriculum needing better alignment to the state's eligible content requirements. Teachers also have been relieved of the burden of having an overwhelming amount of content with relatively no structure to it. Teachers and administrators now have a mechanism in place through Chalk to efficiently and effectively pinpoint any gaps in a student's education. This will allow them to better prepare students for testing, any continuing education they will pursue, and ultimately for their future workforce contributions.

STSD has taken large first steps to revamping its mapping process, and the initial results are already impacting students' education in a positive way. There is now a clear way to connect the eligible content from the assessments to what teachers are doing in the classroom. Both teachers and the district as a whole are now in a position to incorporate consistent and detailed maps from Chalk's Curriculum directly into their day-to-day Planboard lessons and analyze their impact.

FUTURE GOALS



Continue managing
and improving living
curriculum documents



Incorporate curriculum maps
into daily lesson planning
across all subject areas



Continue improving student
success by analyzing use of
curriculum content in day-
to-day lessons

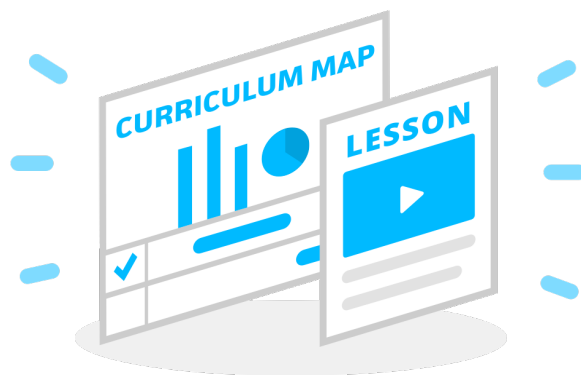


Continue to provide ongoing
professional development
on the effective use of
curriculum in Chalk



Chalk Curriculum

Make curriculum the connection between teachers.



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