

Like many professions, education has its own language, sometimes unfamiliar to others. This Friday is an in-service day. What exactly does that mean? For students, they know they don't have to come to school and that is enough information for them. An "in-service day" is a day for training teachers who are already "in service" to the profession as opposed to those who are training to be teachers.

In-service days give the district the opportunity to present training to help faculty keep up with the frequent changes in education. It is also an opportunity for faculty to develop curriculum.

So exactly what is it that happens on these days? This week we are focusing on the ever growing, ever changing field of technology. The day begins with a presentation by a state employee on the Pennsylvania Standards Aligned System (SAS). The state has spent hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars, to develop this online source for curriculum and teaching materials. As the repository of the "voluntary" state curriculum that is aligned with the *mandatory* state test, it is essential that our faculty becomes familiar with the content of this website.

The rest of the day will feature three different sessions during which teachers will have time to familiarize themselves, or more deeply explore, some of the many software programs now utilized by the district. The list reinforces what I said earlier about education having its own language: Skills Tutor, Digital Resource Portal, Power Teacher, Digital Playground and Google Docs. Yes, in addition to understanding the development of children, knowledge of pedagogical methods and deep understanding of the content they teach, teachers must also develop mastery in a host of technological applications.

Then there is curriculum. General McLane utilizes a seven year curriculum cycle whereby, every seven years, each curriculum area goes through a three year process of review, rewriting and implementing curriculum. Technology Education, Music, Art and Social Studies are in various stages of the curriculum revision process. As part of the day, secondary social studies teachers will get a tour of the Doucette House by members of the Edinboro Area Historical Society. The EAHS has created a fantastic resource for our community and the school district needs to evaluate what can be offered to our students.

As the demands of education grow, there is much still to learn for our teachers who are in service. While the children are home relaxing, rest assured there are some very busy adults in the school.