

# IMPROVING STUDENT LEARNING THROUGH CURRICULUM MAPPING

Curriculum review and development is an ongoing process that is necessary to improve student learning and to ensure that all students have access to a challenging and enriching instructional program. This year St. Margaret's Episcopal School will begin the process of curriculum mapping as a means to increase student achievement by providing horizontal consistency and vertical continuity in the curriculum. A curriculum map is a digital database of curriculum units taught across disciplines and grade levels. It consists of enduring understandings, essential questions, content, skills and assessments.

Curriculum maps provide the data for making decisions about teaching and learning. The mapping process provides teachers with the opportunity to ask reflective questions about what students need to know and be able to do, and how to best assess student understanding of important concepts and skills. The process of curriculum mapping fosters teacher collaboration and enables rich discussions about how to best meet the needs of all of the students at SMES.

Curriculum mapping is not a new trend in education. Schools have been mapping curriculum for over twenty years. However, the recent availability of software makes curriculum mapping a more fluid comprehensive process. Through the use of curriculum mapping software teachers at SMES will have the opportunity to search the database of hundreds of independent and public schools in the country to share ideas for units and lesson plans allowing the professional community to extend beyond the walls of St. Margaret's. I am very excited about curriculum mapping as it is an extremely useful tool for improving student learning through the use of data-driven curriculum decisions.

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