"Word of the Week" Initiative

Purpose: To address the ELA Common Core Shift #6: **Academic Vocabulary**

Academic Vocabulary: abstract, general academic words that are frequently encountered in varieties of academic texts across subject areas and grade levels

Language Anchor Standards Addressed by "WOW":
Standard 4: "Determine and clarify the meaning of unknown words and phrases....
Standard 5: "Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meaning."
Standard 6: "Acquire and use accurately a range of **general academic** and domain-specific words and phrases ..."

Impact on Learning: Deep learning of words requires **direct instruction of word meaning** and instruction in **word learning strategies**, as well as multiple opportunities to interact with words to **practice** using them. "WOW" will allow for both frequent and systematic vocabulary instruction in our schools to enhance learning in all areas of literacy.

"WOW" Plan: An academic word will be chosen for grade spans each week. An online visual presentation to go along with each word will be provided via the Office of Curriculum and Instruction Website for word introduction at the beginning of each week. The website will also provide ideas for encouraging use of "WOWs" across grade levels and subject areas. Words will be available for grade spans as specified by the dates below:

Kindergarten-2nd: 10/21   9th-12th: 10/28   6th-8th: 11/4   3rd-5th: 11/12

"WOW" for the School Community: Staff members who work directly with students will be able to show "WOW" visuals to their students and work with them on "WOW" focused vocabulary building each week. As a greater school community, the "WOW" can be deliberately used as often as possible in conversations with students and staff. Some other ideas for encouraging the use of "WOWs" are as follows:
* Post a "WOW" bulletin board each week and have students sign their names when they use the "WOW"
* Provide incentives (school wide or individual) for use of "WOWs"
* Provide links of "WOW" presentations for families to view at home
* Provide opportunities for students to create their own visual displays of "WOWs"

"WOW" Contact Information:
Office of Curriculum and Instruction Website: **www.abcsoftheoci.weebly.com**
Please contact Barbara Fletcher at **bfletcher@rsu23.org** with feedback, questions, word choices or other creative ideas for the teaching, learning and reinforcing of "WOWs" in our buildings and classrooms!