

Magerko said that Colorado State Standards are about 15 percent more stringent than Common Core and therefore parents need not be concerned that their students will be less challenged than previously. In fact, the Lewis-Palmer curriculum is more stringent than state requirements, resulting in district accreditation as Accredited with Distinction and being honored with the Advanced Placement Honor Roll.

Magerko said that the Colorado Department of Education did not realize the burden caused by the requirement of computerized testing last spring. Districts are now working on ways to return some of the tests to pencil and paper applications.

Magerko assured parents that none of the results of the tests will be personally identifiable.

#### Curriculum and Colorado

#### Academic Standards

Director of Curriculum and Professional Development Sheila Beving said that Common Core was incorporated into the Colorado State Standards in 2010 and emphasized that the district's teachers create the curriculum and lesson plans to meet the standards. For example, the state did not adopt the reading lists offered by Common Core. Teachers focus on best instructional practices to achieve best results, she said.

The district will continually review curricula and assessment data and continue to exceed state standards, Beving said.

One new aspect of assessment is that students are expected to read and comprehend informational texts such as the Bill of Rights, the Constitution, and the Magna Carta. This will prepare them for using primary sources

in their research. Beving noted that this ability is key to workforce readiness.

Director of Assessment and Gifted Education Lori Benton said that the number of hours of testing will decrease by three hours in the coming year, but she has not yet learned which tests this change will effect.

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The District Accountability Advisory Committee meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month. Locations vary. The Nov. 11 meeting will be held in the BEAST Room of Bear Creek Elementary School, 1330 Creekside Drive, Monument.

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Lewis-Palmer D-38 Board of Education, Oct. 16

## Board considers policy changes, recognizes staff and Teacher of the Year

By Harriet Halbig

The Lewis-Palmer Board of Education celebrated the achievements of some of its staff and considered policy revisions at its Oct. 16 meeting.

Superintendent Karen Brofft introduced Kathleen Thirkell, a math teacher at Lewis-Palmer High School and recipient of the title of 2015 Colorado Teacher of the Year. Thirkell has taught in the district for 33 years. Brofft presented her with flowers and a certificate from the board.

Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman com-

mended Maintenance Supervisor Gary Goodwin and Lewis-Palmer High School Building Manager Bill Feduska for completing the roof replacement at the high school on time and under budget. She also thanked Cathy Wilcox

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