

# Tequesta Trace School Advisory Council Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2019

Paul Micensky, Principal

## Guidance Department

Guidance department is beginning matriculation meetings for current 8th graders. Western HS and Cypress Bay will be visiting our school, as well as hosting various parent nights. Preparation for school wide testing has begun. Counselors continue to work with students in the areas of emotional/ social, career, and academics.

Mark your calendars. Spring 2019 testing dates:

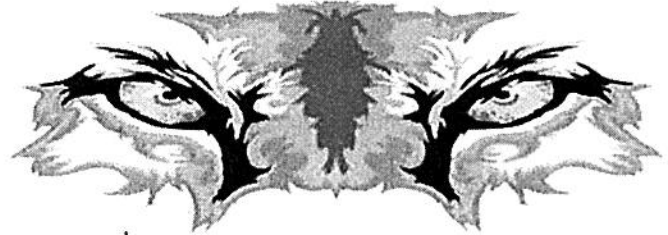
- 4/2 - FSA writing 6th, 7th & 8th
  - 5/1 -5/2 FSA ELA 6th, 7th & 8th
  - 5/6 FSA Math 8th grade
  - 5/7 FSA Math 6th, 7th & 8th
  - 5/8 FSA Math 6th and 7th, FCAT Sci 8th
- Other dates that do not effect the entire school:
- 5/15-5/16 - Algebra/ Geometry EOC
  - 5/21 - Civics and Biology EOC

## Social Studies

Social Studies has continued using document based questions to increase literacy throughout all grade levels. This month is Black History month which will be recognized in our classes. We would like to congratulate H. Hill who won this year's Geography Bee.

Sixth Grade is finishing up on Rome. Within the next week the will be travelling across the ocean to Mesoamerica and northern cultures.

Seventh Grade is completing the three branches of government and will begin state and local governments. Also they will



## Math

Our Math department continues their work towards FSA preparation. Our teachers are meeting in their PLC's to discuss our students scores and areas of weakness to best address the standards that have been covered and the standards that were noted in our SIP as our areas of weakness and concern.

In 6th grade, students completed their unit of study on Algebraic equations and expressions. In this unit students were asked to generate equivalent numerical and algebraic expressions and use them to solve real world problems. Our Advanced 6th grade students' test average was an 87%.

With an 96% (158/164) of students passing with a 70% or above. Our Regular 6th grade students' test average was an 81%. With 88% (134/152) of students passing

calculating the area and circumference of a circle and solving real world problem and mathematical problems involving area of composite figures, and surface area of 3-D objects. We have made improvements in this category as 92% of our students have scored above a 60% on the first performance task.

In Advanced 7th grade Math, students completed their unit of study in Statistics and Probability. This is an area of weakness across the district. Our students are doing well so far, with 88% have scored above a 70% on the first performance task.

8th grade students completed their unit of study on writing and solving Systems of Equations with 82% of our students scoring a 60% or above.

# SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

To support the School Improvement Plan Mrs. Manning coordinated a PD for all grade level PLCs. On January 17th each grade level met with Ilianna Polatos-Quintero (our county science coach). During the PD teachers were acquainted with the wealth of literacy engagement opportunities embedded in our new textbooks. Each PLC will have a one hour follow-up session on March 6th.

Our sixth grade PLC 6th engaged students in a class-wide debate. Students were placed in groups of 4-5 and had to convince someone to build their home on the mountain or island based on which was deemed the most environmentally friendly. Ms. Levine helped with some debate pointers. Additionally, a mid-term was administered to determine levels of student achievement to date.

Our seventh grade PLC finished their exploration of human body systems. Ms. Ferrante's classes engaged in PBL when they were challenged to design an amusement park for Weston based on their knowledge of human body systems. Students will now move into an exploration of heredity and genetics.

Our eighth grade PLC is heavily engaged in exploring the classification of matter, energy transfer, and waves. The 8th Grade PLC will follow 6th Grade's example by administering a mid-point (more or less) exam to measure student mastery of Grade 8 standards.

## Science Fair Results:

1st place- H. Wagner, G. Dodson, E. Shamoun, T. Trivino, I. Gonzalez, L. Gonzalez, Fernando Corvalon, and J. Ochoa

2nd place- S. Cruz, V. Menaches, B. Powers, L. Colangelo, S. Vargas, N. Batista, N. Toolan, I. Shamoun, G. Salles, and V. Valdivieso

3rd place- F. Bettoli, A. Meredith, and M Vargas

First place winners will compete at the County competition on Friday, February 8th. Thank you to Erin Magee for coordinating this school-wide event including our Science Fair Open House on January 23rd.

## E.S.O.L.

The ESOL students have finished the reading, writing and listening portions of the Access 2.0 testing for the 2019 school year. The certified WIDA testers are currently working on the individual speaking portions of the test. The speaking section is done on a one on one basis and takes approximately 20-30 minutes per student. The Access 2.0 test scores are used to determine the students' language classification and their course placements for next year.

We have been approved and will be receiving funding from the ESOL department for Language Enrichment Camp. This program is for 10 weeks of afterschool tutoring for up to 50 ESOL students. The second 10 weeks of tutoring began on February 4th. We currently have 35 students enrolled in Language Enrichment Camp. Students are divided into three different groups according to their action area needs, which is determined with a placement test when they first log into Imagine Learning. The students use a variety of different programs such as Imagine Learning and ESL reading smart plus games and activities. The students have had an average usage of 17 hours with a scaled score increase of 106 points. They have been practicing decoding words and learning phonics skills along with comprehension.

In class we are working on determining the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text. We have been working on getting ready for the FSA writing test on April 2nd.

The ESOL Academic competition practice is well on its way. The theme this year is "Navigating your way to Biliteracy." We currently have 28 members on our team. The competition is on April 27th at Piper High School. More information and results to follow.

## Media Center

CELEBRATE LITERACY- The literacy department and media collaborated on activities to promote reading through the LA classes for JUST READ FLORIDA WEEK! Stu-

# Language Arts/Reading

Currently, the Literary Fair is taking place at TTMS. This is an opportunity for students to showcase their literary talents. Our judging is currently taking place within the school and winners will be announced soon. We look forward to sending our best pieces to the district competition which will take place on March 15, 2019. District awards are April 25, 2019.

Our ELA 6th graders have been reading biographies and other non-fiction texts, as well as creating biography posters about historical role models. We are also working on writing, especially increasing reading and writing stamina.

The 7th grade Cambridge ELA classes are collaborating with a class in India. Under the direction of Ms. Smith, the students are sending pictures of our school and daily life at Tequesta.

In 8th-grade, ELA students are preparing for our annual performance of "Living Voices: Through the Eyes of a Friend". Thank you, PTA, for graciously funding this literary event. Students are completing research projects on different aspects of WWII as well as performing roles from The Diary of Ann Franke. Additionally, students are sharpening their argumentative writing skills by analyzing specific body paragraph structure for this writing genre as well as learning to cite evidence using reliable sources to avoid plagiarism.

In 7th-grade reading classes, Mrs. Rosario reports the students' average Lexile scores for each period all fall within the "Approaching Grade Level" category, according to Achieve 3000. The average growth is that of a full year!! This also means we have met our SMART goal, so we now have plans to go above and beyond that goal.

The TTMS Speech & Debate Team was back in action in January competing in two tournaments! Big congrats to M. Dwyer and A. Graham, and D. Amaya and R. Alizo for winning rounds in Public Forum Debate and N. Foutch and G. Simpson for winning both rounds in PF at the January After School Tournament! First-time competitors J. Velasquez and S. Smith took 4th overall in Duo Interpretation at the Stallion Showdown Invitational in Coral Springs! The February MAST has been postponed until further notice, but the Cougars will be competing with 23 students entered in events! Stay tuned!

## JHS

Beginning Jan 31, JHS has begun the application process for next year's candidates.

Current JHS members spoke at the 7th grade discipline assembly, and in each of the 7th grade SS classes. The school website also has the information. Students may pick up an application until the end of February with the understanding that the applications should be completed and returned to Mr. Piglia or Mrs. Dillmeier by FRIDAY APRIL 18, 2019. Students must bring a copy of their 1st and 2nd quarter grades to Mrs. Dillmeier to receive an application. All applicants need a 3.65 GPA and a good behavior record. This is a Leadership and Service organizations. Students will be required to maintain a 3.65 GPA and fulfill their 30 hours of service to their community as an active JHS member. Mr. Piglia and Mrs. Dillmeier look forward to working with the new JHS class.

JHS 7th grade candidates are welcome to become PAL tutors on Wednesday mornings. This will count toward their service hours.

## Electives

Nutrition class started new this semester. We have learned about traffic light eating and carbs. We are now learning about fruits, veggies and fiber.

Computer class started new this semester. We have just finished learning about google slides and have submitted google slide projects. We will be moving into Pixlr photo shop.

Peer Counseling is spear heading a project of service and love in honor of MSD. We are asking students, teachers, and staff to bring in bottled water, snacks (snack sizes) and personal care items on Monday, February 11th through Thursday, February 14th. On Friday the 15th peer counselors, JHS members, and student