

Tequesta Trace School Advisory Council Newsletter

December 2018

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Literacy Department

As we move towards the end of the 2nd quarter, the following schoolwide initiatives and plans have been addressed in the Professional Learning Communities of teachers- identifying and addressing the needs of our lowest 30% students based on their 2018 FSA ELA scores, implementing literacy strategies in content area classrooms, sharing literacy strategies that align with project-based learning, and communicating changes to the 2019 FSA ELA assessments with teachers.

In our Intensive Reading classes, students are participating in FAIR assessments over the next 2 weeks. This statewide, required assessment progress monitors each student and reports growth in the areas of vocabulary and reading comprehension. Students were assessed at the beginning of the year. Results from this test provide teachers with indicators of their predicted success on the upcoming FSA.

Cambridge & Gifted 6th-graders read and studied poetry elements of The Grinch and then saw the new movie at the Weston AMC. Thanks to the theatre for hosting us. Cambridge 6th also went to the Museum of Discovery and Science to supplement their study of the Greek mathematician and inventor Archimedes. 6th-grade students are also studying animal intelligence in their ELA classes and will be completing a unit in Greek and Latin root words and affixes be-

fore Winter Break.

Additionally, in our 8th-grade ELA classes, students are concluding their study of the Horror Genre. Classic literature such as *The Tell-Tale Heart*, *The Monkey's Paw*, and *Frankenstein* was read and discussed with the skills of character profiles and analysis, suspense, and plot providing the teaching basis for various projects.

And our 7th-graders have analyzed speeches and informational text pieces focused on the theme of Risk and Exploration. While preparing to write argumentative essays, students have completed studies of author's tone and reasoning and providing evidence to support a claim. Both 7th and 8th grade students are completing argumentative essays before Winter Break.

Our literacy electives include Debate and Spanish. Our 8th grade Debate students have been practicing Public Forum Debates as they prepare for competition beginning in January. In the Spanish electives, Mrs. Ibarra reports that her students that are involved in a Spanish Club are practicing for the district competition being held on March 16th. They help each other with material that they need to master. Meetings take place in Portable 6 every Thursday. Also, a reminder that Spanish midterms are on December 17th and 18th.

Electives

Nutrition class: With the beautiful weather we have been spending time outside moving. We will be starting lessons about dealing with stress, reducing inflammation in the body and food synergy.

Computers: Students are preparing for taking the ICT state exam for multimedia essentials. They are trying to earn a digital tool for their transcripts. After we take the exam next week, we will go back to working on code.

Peer Counseling ran the Harvest Food Drive again this year. The top classes in each grade level were Goldwyn, Forman, Laichak, and Sikorski. Each of those classes will receive a doughnut party. Mrs. Goldwyn's class collected the most items this year!! 45 peer counselors went over to Western High School and helped separate food for the drive. This was a lot of work, but very rewarding for the students. The peer counselors also attended a play, "Weight of Words" at Nova High School. It

is a fantastic play about bullying and the realization of the weight of your words. We also celebrated Red Ribbon Week and had 5 fun dress up days celebrating a drug free TTMS! The peer counseling students are also in classes working with students one-on-one.

Life Skills learned how to make mashed potatoes, cupcakes, pigs in a blanket, winter cookies, and stove top macaroni and cheese. They also learned how to sew a button, how to sew an elephant stuffed animal, and how to plant vegetables.

Drama An unbelievable weekend with an unbelievably talented group of young Thespians! So proud of Troupe 88241 for these crazy results: 25 pieces total, plus a one act play: **21 Superior ratings, 4 Excellent ratings, SIX Best of Show performance!!!** On top of that, our **One Act received Superior ratings** for both performance and tech and was chosen as Best of Show. **On our way to State in January!**

Junior Honor Society

JHS sponsors tutoring every Wednesday morning for any student who needs assistance in any subject area.

We raised over \$1200 for the American Cancer Society through Making Strides

We raised over \$400 for UNICEF through trick or treat boxes

Next, we are collecting gift cards for Childnet (an agency that helps foster children) to donate to the children for the holiday season.

Guidance Department

Guidance Department is currently working with students individually in the areas of Academic/Personal Social/ and College and Career. Grades are being monitored and we continue to work with students, teachers and families towards academic success.

Social Studies Department

6th grade is currently exploring Ancient Greece, talking about mythology and democracy. They will finish the quarter with Greece and start Ancient Rome when we return from Winter break.

7th grade is discussing the three branches of government. The Legislative, Executive and Judicial branch's powers, how a bill becomes a law, checks and balances, and separation of powers. During this process, students are reading/analyzing high level text and practicing EOC style questions.

8th grade is in the process of completing the Revolutionary War period, covering the Declaration of Independence and Constitution.

All grade levels are using various reading strategies to enhance students understanding of the standards, as well as to increase their learning gains.

Finally, all classes participating in the History Fair are finishing up projects by December 12, 2018.

E.S.L.S.

Mrs. Passman received a TDIF grant from the district and attended two conferences as part of the Social Thinking Program. The first was on The Informal Dynamic Assessment and Core Treatment Strategies. The second was Implementing Social Thinking Concepts and Vocabulary: A Day To Develop Team Creativity. Mrs. Passman will be implementing this information with her students with Pragmatic Language goals.

We are starting to compile our list of testing accommodations for our mainstreamed students.

Also, this week is Inclusive Schools Week and we have an activity where students are submitting ideas/examples/suggestions for how our school demonstrates inclusive practices. Teachers are also implementing strategies in their classrooms to help support the initiative.

The SVE classes will be participating in the Special Olympics track & field competition on 12/12, at Cooper City HS.

Congratulations!

2018 –2019 Quarter 1 Top Canvas Users

Jeanne Tunon

Crystal Taylor

Mary Amodeo

Melyssa Silva

The ESOL students are working hard and making lots of learning gains. In November they competed in Imagine Learnings Language and Literacy challenge. Students were challenged to maximize their literacy practice and reading comprehension in a statewide contest using the Imagine Learning program. Tequesta Trace Students came in second place in the state. They were the only school in Broward County to receive an award.

ESOL

We are continuing with after school tutoring. This is a 12 week program. This is the fourth year that Tequesta Trace is involved in the program. After school tutoring is open to all students in the ESOL program. Tutoring is on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:45-4:45. We currently have 30 students enrolled in tutoring.

Science

To support the School Improvement Plan our PLCs have continued meeting with other department PLCs. The most recent training presented an overview of Project-Based Learning. Teachers then enrolled in a Canvas course that provides numerous useful resources to help teachers implement PBL in their classrooms.

All PLCs have been reviewing and discussing the data obtained from care cycles to determine the best resources for remediation and extension. Additionally, all PLCs have been discussing literacy strategies with Mrs. Manning as they may be applied to science content. To this end Mrs. Manning has coordinated a PD with our science resource contact from the county. During this PD teachers will be provided with literacy strategies that are specific to our new textbooks.

Our sixth grade PLC is finishing up Plate Tectonics, Weathering, Erosion & Deposition and are jumping into the rock cycle. Mrs. Andreolas' classes will be having the Geology in a Bucket Field Trip learning the difference between rocks and minerals.

Our seventh grade PLC continues to learn about the human organ systems. Classes are regularly using Newsela and Science World magazine to bring the "real world" into the classroom.

Our eighth grade PLC is continuing to explore matter by examining various properties of matter and looking at energy transfer within systems.

Students at all grade levels are engaged in science fair in grade-level appropriate ways. In addition to in-depth exploration of grade-level standards students may also submit an Invent America Project. The Science Fair Open House will be held at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, January 23rd.

News in the Media

I would like to thank our TTMS PTA for supporting our Media Center remodel. The PTA purchased the 2 laptop collaboration tables, chair and the 40in. monitors from the Cougar Challenge 2017. This year, with the help of the PTA, we are looking to purchase a digital classroom work area. Thanks largely in part to the generous parent support of the ZONE fundraiser. Come on by next week to see the changes that are being made.

Media Center Mornings: The media center is now open to students before school with a new security entrance procedures. The JHS students will be out front of the main entrance to sign students in to the media center. Sign in will be between 8:20 and 8:40 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. All students are welcome.

PTA is hosting a second Scholastic Book Fair just in time for the holidays. Fair dates are Tues Dec 11- Fri Dec 14. All proceeds go to developing our print collections. Holidays are a good time to

1. Encourage students reading, research shows that reading 20 minutes a day increases fluency and

Mathematics

As we approach the end of the second quarter, marking the midway point of the school year, I want to offer a glance into the progress our students and teachers are making in Math. Every week teachers meet in their Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to plan standard-based lessons and activities for our students. We review data gathered from our common formative assessments and plan remediation and enrichment activities accordingly. The following is description of the standards covered by grade level and the percentage of students showing mastery of those skills at this time.

6th grade students have completed three units of study. Unit 1 presented standards on the number system: absolute value, opposite quantities, finding the GCF, integers and rational numbers. 99% of our Advanced math students and 87% of our Regular math students showed mastery of these standards. In Unit 2 our 6th graders learned Number Operations with fractions and decimals. 93% of our Advanced math and 89% of our Regular Math students scored at the mastery level on the formative assessment. Proportionality: Ratios, rates, and percent of a number were taught in the 3rd unit of study. 98% of the Advanced 6th grade students scored a 70% or above, showing mastery of the standard. Regular students are yet to be tested.

Our 7th graders have been working on standards dealing with Expressions and Equations as well as Geometry. These standards are ones we identified, from last year's FSA results, as our areas of weakness. As stated on our School Improvement Plan teachers will focus their efforts on improving these standards. So far our students are performing well, with 85% of our Advanced students and 78% of our Regular Math students showing mastery of the standards covering expressions and equations and 88% of Regular Math students showing mastery of the Geometry standards.

In 8th grade, our students and teachers have been working on standards covering Functions and linear equations, Proportional and Nonproportional relationships as well as Scatter plots and Trend Lines. Our 8th graders are doing well so far showing a 85% mastery of standards dealing with Functions and Linear equations and 88% mastery of the standards covering Functions and linear equations.

In Math Team News:

The Math team meets every Thursday morning to practice solving problems to prepare for the ONE competition we will participate in this year: BCCTM on March 9, 2019. Students are working cooperatively to discuss and argue their answer choices. The kids are awesome and we enjoy our time together. Next week we will celebrate the holidays by having a donut breakfast while we problem-solve.

Currently, we have 6th, 7th, and 8th grade GEM teams, and 7th Grade ADV. We are looking to recruit members to compete in 6th and 8th grade advanced or any EMF