

Tequesta Trace School Advisory Council Newsletter

November 2018

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Literacy Department

As a part of our continuous student achievement and SIP plan, last month all SS teachers participated in a district professional development, Historical Thinking. The teachers learned about literacy standards in their specific content area and how to use reading strategies to help their students further understand the World History, Civics, and US History content. We will continue with professional development for the Science teachers in the coming months. During weekly PLC sessions, the reading coach will continue to visit both science and social studies groups to assist teachers with lesson planning and instruction using reading and writing strategies.

In our Intensive Reading classes, the students have been using the Achieve 3000 program which allows every student enrolled to receive the same basic lesson, but the content is customized to match each child's own reading level. The lesson comes with a variety of activities to improve the student's comprehension, vocabulary and writing skills. As each child's reading level improves, the

program increases the level of difficulty to remain challenging and interesting. The Achieve 3000 program makes it very easy to examine student growth. Currently, each grade level has shown an increase in Lexile levels, especially our 7th graders.

As a part of the Reimagining Middle Schools district initiative, we have added additional electives for our 6th-graders. One of the classes is Thinking Studio. In this class, the students complete projects and solve problems using complex reading selections including classic, contemporary, and informational texts. Students implement and practice thinking skills in an interactive environment.

Also, in our ELA classes, students continue to work on standards-based instruction, activities, lessons, and projects including grammar and sentence structure, copy made poems, character analysis, thesis statements, argumentative essays, expository essays, and comparing and contrasting speeches.

Science

To support the School Improvement Plan Science our PLCs have continued meeting with other department PLCs. The most recent training held dealt with insuring equity within our school. Student achievement gaps are being identified through the use of CARE cycle post-testing as well as by examining the results of PBL projects implemented by each PLC. Sixth grade is working on Plate Tectonics and will be designing, building, and testing a house that could withstand an earthquake. Seventh grade is learning about the human body systems by engaging in a scavenger hunt on campus, measuring changes in respiration and body temperature, and model making including a "robotic arm" in Ms. Melendez's class. Eighth grade is comparing the densities of substances by measuring their masses and volumes, employing literacy strategies that allow students to compare similarities of elements, and witnessing the law of conservation of mass in action.

B.T.U.

Planning Day 10/19, BTU provided a workshop on Managing Anti-social Behavior of students to teachers. BTU is continuing with providing weekly evening workshops that focus on ESE Strategies to assist teachers in meeting the state requirement for the renewal of teaching certificates.

BTU Stewards have conducted 2 votes:

- 1) To select 1 of 3 options proposed and voted on by SAC for the use of A+ funds. Option #1, with the most votes, prevailed—90% of the A+ funds to employees and 10% to TTMS.
- 2) The explorations of moving to block schedule or continue teaching with the traditional schedule TTMS now has. Teachers voted to not explore block scheduling for the 2019 –2020 school year, but to continue with the existing schedule.

Electives

Nutrition is learning about healthy and unhealthy aging. Including what oxidation, inflammation, and glycation do to the body.

Computer/Code is reviewing for the ICT state exam for their digital tool certificate.

Our **Climatology and Weather** elective is about to celebrate the end of our hurricane season that will end on November 30th. During this month, students presenting project on a chosen topic about Climate or Weather phenomenon. Topics include tsunamis, tornadoes, floods, melting glaciers, sea level rise, and air pollution. Several presentations are on Global Warming and its consequences. This seems to be of great concern to our students, especially when they learn of its impact on Florida.

Show Choir is learning staging, and choreography for the Winterfestival of Music and Fall Concert. They are working to raise funds to purchase shirts and performance attire.

Symphonic Band auditioned for All County and are awaiting results. S. Morero was selected to the All-State Honors band on Flute.

6-8th Gr. Beginners had their 1st performance on Oct. 30 and did a great job.

All Bands are preparing for the Fall Concert, and Symphonic and Jazz are preparing for the Winter-festival of music.

The Pep Band will play on 11/14 to start the Eagle Point Elementary Reflections ceremony. Instrument fitting at Indian Trace and Country Isles begin soon.

6th grade Robotics Students are programming their robots to navigate an obstacle course utilizing Sensors to detect distance and bumpers to execute turns. The goal is have the robot complete the course AUTONOMOUSLY. Some students have begun adding sounds and lights to the robot movements.

8th grade Advanced Information Technology just finished their second unit of Computer Science Discoveries in WEB DEVELOPMENT. They worked very diligently to create unique websites in HTML that represent their learning in class. They have just begun learning JAVA Script and will be designing interactive greeting cards and eventually computer games

Peer Counselors finished mediation training and will now be qualified to mediate other students. We have also visited the West Broward Care Center and did arts and crafts with the elderly, collected food for the Harvest Drive and this Friday will be going to Western High School to help organize the food for distribution. We are also continuing to go into the classrooms on a daily basis and help our

Mathematics

The Math Department has reviewed last year's FSA results, and has begun working in their PLC groups to develop a new plan of action to address areas of weakness by grade-level. Teachers have read over the state's report called "Lessons Learned from FSA" and we are using their findings to prepare spiral reviews and warm-up exercises that allow students to practice those question types which the state has found to be missed most often.

Math teachers have also begun their data chats with students. We are taking time to have one-on-one conversations with our students regarding their individual areas of weakness, and strategies they can use at home to review and practice in preparation for this year's Math FSA.

We are also preparing our Algebra and Geometry students for their upcoming midterm exams, which will be held on December 18th and 19th. Review packets for the midterm will be available to all students prior to the NY/DC trip.

Social Studies

The Social Studies classes have been working closely with the literacy department to continue to infuse Literacy practices within our standards. We are analyzing the data from last year as well as continuing to review data from our students test scores to ensure classes can meet mastery of the topics.

In 7th grade some of our teachers have taken a course that was offered by the county which was named "EOC Revisited" where experts in the Social Studies 7th grade curriculum offered an in depth explanation of expectations and modeled best practices for student success.

7th and 8th grade Advanced, Gifted and Cambridge classes are participating in the History fair. This year's theme being Triumph and Tragedy.

In the past week we have had student participate in "kids voting" online and had discussions about the amendments to encourage our students to decipher higher level text as well as community awareness.

S.A.F.—School Advisory Forum

BCPS GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT:

- Naviance Training took place. Tool for college and career planning for grades 6 thru 12
- Naviance trainings available for parents. Big push to have students and parents using (parents can read not edit). Parents have their own log in.
- 60 Brace Cadets will be hired to help get the word out and trained in leadership positions. Too many students are not using the tool and taking full advantage of available scholarships. Student cadets will be paid \$500.00 - - how student will be selected is yet to be determined.

Goal by 2025- 65% residents to have credential or degree

Training: School Advisory Council/School Advisory Forum

SAF training took place - general information on the roles and responsibilities a bit of history (no hand-outs). DAC will ensure that presentation is posted on website.

-Foster communication between SAF/Community/School.

-Be supportive of school and principal —schedule meetings with principal when needed.

-Democratic way to solve problems with all parties involved

- Implement parent/community programs
- If help is needed beyond school, contact Area Advisory Council.

Note: SAF/SAC meetings to maintain minutes and *advertise meetings* and follow agenda

Student Progress Plan 2018/2019 Policy 6000.1

- New motion was brought forth by DAC (the makeup policy must be available to all parents - easy access). The policy is no longer in the student handbook and was moved to policy 6000.1 - - A parent looking for district policy would have to search. Motion was shared with the group and will be presented at the next School Board for consideration. (We are not asking for changes, only that the policy be available to parents). - Make up work policies for Elementary (Pg 9), Middle (Pg 28) and High School (Pg. 46.)

- Policy to be communicated on each SCHOOL WEBSITE where it can be easily found.

- Dr. Wanza was present at the meeting and was given the floor for a few minutes (not on agenda). She thanked everyone for their patience. Our community is still in recovery with the events earlier this year. In the beginning of the year several schools complained it was taking 20 minutes or more to get the gate opened - that has been addressed and she asked that parents please be patient as schools implement new safety procedures.

Be E.A.G.E.R



Engaged
Accountable
Generous
Encouraging
Respectful

COUGARS R.R.O.C.K.

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Organization
- Cooperation
- Kindness



Discipline Update

The Discipline Committee attend training on ways to improve discipline. The training is a 3 day commitment and is required by the state. The team has been given resources and strategies to help improve misbehavior. Even though TTMS's discipline data is very good, we have committed to increase the students' awareness of appropriate behavior.

Data:

2017 TOTAL	2018 TOTAL	2019 as of Nov 2018
80 w/ 1 Ref	101 w/ 1 Ref	38 w/ 1 Ref
37 w/ 2-5 Ref	25 w/ 2-5 Ref	10 w/ 2-5 Ref
4 w/ >5 Ref	8 w/ > 5 Ref	1 w/ > 5 Ref

We are working on increasing Lesson Plans for the teachers to use to infuse Positive Discipline in the classrooms.