

Tequesta Trace School Advisory Council Newsletter

October 2018

Paul Micensky, Principal



Literacy Department

The Literacy Department looks forward to spreading the joy of reading across our school by hosting our annual Book Character Day on Thursday, October 18th. Teachers and staff will not only dress as characters from literature and biographies, but they will decorate their hallways, read parts of books orally, read novels as a class and discuss their characters as they celebrate reading. What characters will “come alive” this year? We anticipate another great event!

Regarding our continuous improvement of learning, the literacy department met this past Friday to analyze FSA data and testing subgroups. Additionally, the 2018 FSA Parent Reports for our 7th and 8th graders were sent home to students in September. The 6th grade reports will be going home around October 17th. These informative reports not only break down each student score in an easy to read layout, they also provide comparative data from previous years of a student's FSA score history. With these reports, teachers can see information such as writing score breakdowns, multiyear data, and student scores compared to school, district, and state levels. Through PLCs, the literacy coach has met with every content teacher and shared the list of lowest 30% students on the FSA ELA. Content teachers are identifying reading and writing strategies to help those students succeed with the text demands of their specific classrooms.

In the ELA classrooms, teachers are completing the first quarter with performance tasks involving written essays, multimedia projects, formative assessments, and various activities which represent their gained knowledge of the ELA standards.

As a part of the Reimagining Middle Schools district initiative, we have added additional electives for our 6th-graders. One of the classes is Digital Literacy which is off to a great start providing 21st Century Learning. The classes have delved into an array of digital topics to keep the students smart and safe online. Students have been excited to use Canvas and to incorporate different forms of media and files into their work.

Math Department

Math will be introduced to PBL and SEL initiatives through our PLC between now and November. We just had our 1st department meeting last Friday. We have discussed teacher practice observations and creating and generating the PMP letters for our level 1 and 2 students. Our new initiative in math is to begin Data Chats for all students. This is in the works as we are busy collecting data.

Social Studies

6th grade is working on Egypt and the Israelite's. The average on the Unit 1 CFA was an 84/85%.

7th grade is discussing the Enlightenment Thinkers and the Declaration of Independence. Our first CFA about Citizenship was very successful the average was an 88%.

8th grade- All classes are working on the JA Finance workbook to prepare for their field trip to JA Finance Park October 22-25.

The 7th and 8th grade Advanced, Gifted, and Cambridge classes have all received their history fair timelines with due dates as well as their parent/student contracts to be signed. The final projects are due 12/12/18.

JHS

Join us on October 27 for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. We are meeting at the fountain at 8:00 Saturday, 10/28/18. Families are welcome to walk with us. T-shirts are on sale for \$15.00. Proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. PAL TUTORING has started with a bang. Our JHS tutors have been busy helping students with classwork, homework and test prep. Wednesday mornings at 8:15. Meet us at the front door to sign in.

UNICEF Students will be getting a TRICK OR TREAT collection box the last week of October—Math classes. Please return your boxes on November 1-2.

Electives

Electives will be introduced to PBL and SEL initiatives this month through our PLCs.

Peer Counseling has been providing peer assistance as noted on ese student's iep. We have also been providing peer assistance during PE as well as in class peer assistance in Mrs. Curtis and Mrs. Ancieta's classes with SVE students. We are kicking off our schoolwide recycling program this month with peer counseling and SVE students.

On Friday, September 28th all TTMS students were trained in the Sandy Hook Promise Program Start with Hello to improve the social, emotional, learning atmosphere at TTMS.

To bridge the gap between school and community Mr. Passman's climate and weather class had two guest speakers: Mr. Robert Molleda from the National Weather Service and Mr. Jeff Thovtrup a commercial airline pilot spoke on the topic of how weather affects aircraft safety, routing, and preparation.

Beginning bands are starting to find their first notes. Symphonic ban is working on performance fundamentals and sight reading. Jazz band is working on performance fundamentals, swing style, and reading jazz rhythms. Choir is working on proper vowel pronunciation, correct diction, and voice placement. They have also been learning words, notes, and style for fall concert music.

In nutrition class they are learning about the dangers of hidden sugar in so called healthy food.

Science Busy Bees

This week Science PLCs have been meeting with other department PLCs to continue training with regard to SEL. Previous department meetings have been preempted by school faculty meetings. **Will be having our first department meeting this Friday at such time we will discuss the new textbooks, lab materials, science fair, and other departmental matters.** All grade levels are increasing student engagement and mastery by implementing PBL and a greater focus on literacy in the science classroom.

Media Center News

Book Fair News. Thank you, Mrs. Bergman and all the amazing volunteers that shared their time with us at the "Enchanted Forest" Bookfair. We celebrated the 15 top Summer readers with a \$10.00 gift certificate for the bookfair. We raised \$2500.00 in scholastic dollar for our collections. Missed this fair? Our next fair is the week of December 10-14. Keep reading.

Media Center opening in the morning before school beginning on Tuesday October 16th. Please understand that there will be mornings when it will have to remain closed to students. Thank you for your understanding. Happy Reading!

Students, stop on by the media center, check out "Jack, says READ", Horror of October and our Mystery in the Bag display.

ESOL

In the ESOL classes this month we have been working along with of the Social Studies department on Constitution Day activities and symbols of the United States. This is a rather complicated topic for our students who are coming from different cultures and countries.

In class we are also working on a step by step writing process. The students are using simple present tense verbs and descriptive adjectives to write about their family and their home. They are learning how to site evidence from the text, and not just copy the entire line.

All students have been registered and are using ESL reading smart. This is an on-line program that is set by a pre-test to the students unique academic English level. The on-line web base program can be used at home as well as in school.

We have been approved for the Cultural Academy for New Americans (CANAs). This is a tutoring program for the Immigrant students. Tutoring will begin on Monday October 22, 2018 will continue Monday's and Wednesday afterschool from 3:45-4:45. There will be 50 students invited and there are 5 tutors.

SEL = Social Emotional Learning

The district is focused on a reimaging middle school initiative including SEL as its core. TTMS is an ambassador school, as such, we are training the staff during faculty meetings and their PLC using Conscious Discipline tools in their classrooms that equip our students with self-regulating tools for academic and life successes.