

## **Student Achievement and Learning Report**

### **Professional Learning Communities**

A professional learning community (or PLC) is an ongoing process in which educators work collaboratively in recurring cycles of collective inquiry and action research to achieve better results for the students they serve. PLCs will serve as an integral part to our plan for continuous school improvement here in Tipton Community Schools. Teachers meet once each week during their prep period to discuss what we want students to learn, how we will know if they learned it, how we will respond if they didn't learn it, and how we will respond if they did learn it.

Over the past few weeks, each PLC has established their own, unique purpose, set team norms, assigned team roles, and are currently creating long and short term SMART goals that focus on either academic goals or process goals. Once these goals are set, each team will work collaboratively towards their goals, share strategies, successes, and challenges, and analyze the data from those results to inform instructional decisions and support student learning.

### **School Improvement Plans**

All schools are required to submit school improvement plans to the Indiana Department of Education. These are 3-year plans reviewed annually that guide the work of schools, in particular, their professional development plans. Tipton Elementary School and Tipton Middle School are both in year 2 of their school improvement plans.

Over the past 6 weeks, the Tipton High School leadership team has been working diligently, under the leadership of Assistant Principal Craig Leach, to overhaul their school improvement plan. Completing a Comprehensive-Needs Assessment, the team reviewed essential information regarding school resources and processes, conducted a gap and root cause analysis, and outlined a professional development plan for the next three years.

I have personally reviewed each of these plans and, while there is always room for growth, am confident that they accurately reflect an effective plan for school improvement that each building is executing.

### **Administration Professional Development**

Over the past two months, building principals and instructional coaches have participated in a free professional development series sponsored by "Keep Indiana Learning," called "IN the Lead." This series targeted learning strands based on the priorities identified by the IDOE as key areas of impact. They were designed to deliver relevant and applicable strategies, sustainability, and research-based best practices from national experts, authors, and Indiana practitioners to support the creation of a local community of practice for the participants.

These strands included: A Culture of Inquiry; Competency Based Grading; Leading Data Analysis; Leading the Rebound; and Recruiting and Retaining High Quality Teachers. The participants have been given the opportunity to share key takeaways from these learning

opportunities that we can put into practice over the next year or two to begin accelerating student learning following the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Middle School Math**

I have had the pleasure to teach several classes over the past month in our middle school. I was able to model teach in Mr. Johnson's Honors Algebra class as well as Ms. Schmidt's 6th Grade Math class. It has been an absolute pleasure working with some of our incredible students here in Tipton. The energy in all the classes I worked with was fantastic and the questions and discussions those lessons sparked was something that can't be measured.

While we understand we are far from where we want to be, we are assuredly making progress in our math classes. Each middle school math teacher and I have developed a scope and sequence for each class that outlines learning targets for each unit, aligned to the Indiana Academic Standards.

We are also about to begin the resource adoption process for math that will play a critical role in the future success of our students. We will be looking for a resource that aligns to the standards, serves as a quality resource for lesson planning, and provides students and their families with a valuable guide for independent practice.

### **New Teacher Monthly Meeting**

Under the supervision of Dr. Glaze, the instructional coaches have started a monthly meeting for teachers new to Tipton Community Schools to provide some additional support and build a culture of collaboration. This past month, our focus was on classroom management strategies. Each month will focus on different key elements for new teachers, as well as offer an open forum for questions and discussion about procedures and best, common practices.