

Student Achievement and Learning Report

Creating a Support System for Special Education

The TCSC special education team has been hard at work to develop a system to better serve all students in our school community. The middle school has already restructured their schedules to support the needs of special education students while providing a classroom environment conducive to learning. Mr. Welbaum is providing more direct behavior support for all TMS special education students, allowing Mrs. Crouch and Ms. Smelser to provide instructional support for all students in their classes. There has been a noticeable decrease in classroom disruptions, allowing teachers to spend their time supporting student learning.

Similarly, the elementary special education team is developing their own system to support student learning with the service of a behaviorally focused special education teacher. With one teacher (along with two aides) providing interventions for students with behavioral needs, the other special education teachers will be able to focus their support on the students in the classrooms they serve.

All of this change is leading to a shift to use our staff more effectively and efficiently. The purpose is to optimize our special education department and increase the support for Tier I (first time) instruction for all students, not just special education. Along with the support of our UDL instructional coaches, we are building the capacity of our teachers to create a more inclusive and accessible learning environment for all students.

Mid-Year Assessments

As first semester comes to a close and we prepare for the second semester, I want to provide you a list of upcoming assessments:

- NWEA (Winter) - 11.29-12.17
- CoGAT - 1.10-1.21
- WIDA - 1.10-2.25

As the data from these assessments comes in, I will prepare an analysis and summary of each to share with administration and the school board.

Math Resource Adoption Update

This year is a math resource adoption year. We have formed a committee from each building to support my recommendation to the school board. Each committee meets about once each month to discuss how a resource will be determined and what characteristics will factor into our recommendation. Following is the timeline for each committee leading up to my recommendations next March:

- October: Initial Meeting - team purpose, norms, timeline
- November: Develop criteria and priorities
- December: Finalize criteria and priorities
- January: Develop a rubric; attend textbook caravans
- February: Apply rubric to finalists and make determination
- March 8: Submit recommendation to School Board
- April/May/July: Provide staff professional development

Digital Resource Team

With the support of the IT department and representation from both teachers and administrators from each building, Steven Gingerich and I are putting together a procedure for piloting, adopting, and evaluating digital resources being utilized at TCSC. This process is intended to supply teachers with a list of digital resources that are both high quality and safe, secure for student use. This is not meant to restrict teachers from seeking out new, engaging resources. Instead, we are hoping to share quality resources currently supported by our school community and offer a procedure for adopting digital resources that meet the academic and safety needs of our students.

New Teacher Monthly Meeting

Our instructional coaches once again hosted our monthly new teacher meeting this past November. At this meeting, the coaches shared specific strategies for teachers to better connect with their students. Teachers were able to share current practices and they each were able to walk away with additional tools in their instructional toolbox.