

Tequesta Trace School Advisory Council Newsletter

January 2019

Paul Micensky, Principal



Guidance Department

The Guidance department would like to remind parents and students to be aware of Middle School promotion criteria. This is the time of year when many students feel stress and anxiety about Spring testing and academic success. Please see your grade level counselor if you are feeling stress or are unclear about what it takes to be promoted to the next grade level. Remember preparation is the key.

6th grade students participated in the Scoliosis Screenings on January 15th during 1st and 2nd periods. Students were screened in the Boys' and Girl's Locker Room. Students whose parents completed the Opt-Out form for Scoliosis will not be screened.

Mark your calendars. Spring 2019 testing dates:

- 4/2 - FSA writing 6th, 7th & 8th
- 5/1 -5/2 FSA ELA 6th, 7th & 8th
- 5/6 FSA Math 8th grade
- 5/7 FSA Math 6th, 7th & 8th
- 5/8 FSA Math 6th and 7th, FCAT Sci 8th
- Other dates that do not effect the entire school:
 - 5/15-5/16 - Algebra/ Geometry EOC
 - 5/21 - Civics and Biology EOC

Math Department

Teachers in the Math department are working in their PLC groups to develop a crunch-time plan in preparation for the upcoming FSA tests. We are reviewing district provided resources and determining which of these resources best fit the needs of our students, so that we can create review and practice materials to get our students ready for their MATH FSA. We are also working with the ELA department on an instructional workshop that will address our bubble students, and the skills they may be lacking, in an effort to make improvements on our scores, as stated in our SIP plan.

Social Studies

The History Fair is completed. The winners will be announced at our next meeting.

The Geography Bee was conducted on January 10th. The top five students from each teacher went on to round two on January 11th. The top scoring students from round two will move on to the third round which determines who goes to the county level. Results will be announced at our February meeting.

6th grade has started their unit on Rome. Discussing the Roman Republic, representative democracy, Roman gods, Punic Wars, then they will move into the Roman Empire.

7th grade is continuing with the three branches of government and will begin comparing the Florida Constitution with the US Constitution.

8th grade finished the American Revolution and has started discussing the Early Presidents of the United States.

UPCOMING JANUARY EVENTS

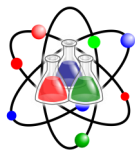
16 Vbal:00pml @ Pines Charter



17 Vball @ Indian Ridge

21 No School

23 Science Fair Night 6:30pm



23 Debate Tournament @ Glades

26 Speech/Debate Tournament @ West Glades

30 Flag Fball vs Imagine Charter—
Home



30 Drama Showcase 7:00pm

31—2/2 Drama @ State Competition in Orlando

B.T.U.

BTU Stewards have assisted teachers by request with questions and issues. Administration has been receptive to listening and problem solving through these issues. Negotiations between BTU and the District continue. There has not been agreement on salary negotiations at this time. BTU continues to offer its members benefits, professional education classes and social gatherings. On Feb. 1, interested BTU Members are going to a Panther Game and on March 17th, they are going to a Heat Game.

Electives

Several Elective courses rotated with the new semester. Nutrition, Computer, and Life Skills all received new students. In Nutrition, studies will begin with "Traffic Light Eating" and how to recognize a Carb. Slide presentations is the beginning point for the students new to the Computer class and students in Life Skills will begin with kitchen safety and cleaning.

For the second semester of Climatology and Weather elective, students will be learning about the atmosphere and the instruments used to measure current weather conditions. Several guest speakers are scheduled and include a television meteorologist, National Weather Service, and a commercial airline pilot. Future studies include: climate change, storms and other natural disasters and how to prepare for them.

Peer Counselors continue to work side by side in the classrooms helping students, pulling students out of electives for one-on-one tutoring, doing mediations, and counseling. The novel, The Bystander by James Preller will be read. It is a fantastic novel that will keep them wanting to read more!!!

Jr. Thespian Troupe 88241 (Advanced Drama) competed at the District Level in December and is preparing to take 8 performance pieces and 2 technical pieces to State Festival in February. Troupe 88241 received Critic's Choice recognition in 6

different categories, breaking their own record! The Spring Musical, Freaky Friday, has been cast and rehearsals are in the beginning stages. The show goes on from April 24-26 at Western High School.

The Band and Show Choir have both completed their wonderful Fall Concerts and are now preparing for performances at Town Center's Celebration of the Arts on January 30th.

Students in choir will be learning a fantastic swing medley for upcoming performances as well as traditional choir music, and they will have their new choir shirts. Several choir and band students will be participating in All County Choir in January and February. On February 7th TTMS Band and Jazz Band will finish their concert performance tour for elementary students at Indian Trace. Students in Symphonic Band will be preparing solos for the solo and ensembles competition in February and the Beginning Band students later in May.

Congratulations to the TTMS Jazz Catz, who were recently invited to perform as a featured Middle School Jazz Band at the Prestigious Melton Mustaffa Jazz Festival in Miami in February. Congratulations to 8th grader Sophia Morero who performed flute with the All State band on January 12th in Tampa.

Happy New Year from the Literacy Department!

The TTMS Speech and Debate team will be competing in two tournaments in Broward County this month. The first is the monthly After School Tournament (MAST) at Glades Middle School on January 23rd, and the second is the Coral Springs Middle Stallion Showcase Showdown on Saturday, January 26th. These enthusiastic students will be preparing their own materials which include research, cropping, storytelling, and persuasive writing. After school practices will be announced in Mrs. Levine's Class. Go Cougars!

Using the Achieve 3000 program, our reading students have shown growth in their Lexile scores across all 3 grade levels. As a school, we made gains and our projections have increased with 68% of our current level 1 and 2 readers enrolled in the intensive reading classes either approaching or meeting forecasts of reading readiness on grade level by the end of the school year. There are currently 362 students using Achieve 3000.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

The Science Department has been busy teaching the Scientific Method through Science Projects and Invent America. Science Night is Wednesday, January 23, 2019 @ 6:30pm.

8th graders will need to knuckle-down on the standards that are assessed on FSA Science.

As part of our continuing effort to improve student achievement, our department works with Mrs. Manning in learning and teaching reading strategies through Science.