

Dr. Melissa Thomas
Director of Secondary
Curriculum
November 5, 2019

Secondary Curriculum Update

*Teaching is a conscious stream of **GOOD** decisions, made before, during, and after instruction, the implementation of which, will **ENSURE** the probability that learning will take place and **KNOWLEDGE WILL BE RETAINED.***

Madeline Hunter

The office of secondary curriculum is off to a great start this school year. With the addition of this role, I have been able to support administrators, teachers, and students in grades 6-12 like never before. I have worked hand-in-hand with our secondary schools in areas of student assessment, academic resources, teacher training, and data analysis to name a few.

Professional Development

In support of our District Goals 1) Increase student achievement across the district and 5) Ensure all graduates are career/college ready, I have assisted in providing the necessary training for development with the staffs at Milam, Tupelo Middle, and Tupelo High Schools. Some of the trainings that I have personally provided this semester include but are not limited to:

1. **“I Know I Can Lead.... But Can I Lead All Teachers”** This was a leadership training at the beginning of the school year for all department heads and lead teachers. We know that Principals cannot do this work alone. They need the help of responsible and capable individuals throughout the building to help build and sustain high moral and a positive, viable culture. We set the tone of how we would lead this school year.
2. **Recipe for Good Instruction: TPSD PET Model** I trained teachers on how to make the best possible decisions which enhance learning and retention for students, model effective teaching behavior, improve instructional planning, improve time on task and reduce classroom management problems, and improve communication between teachers through common use of terminology.
3. **Inspirational Teaching** This was a motivational session to help teachers remember why they chose this awesome profession and how to push through when the challenging times come.
4. **The New Art and Science of Teaching: Marzano Research** This training was provided to secondary special education teachers. We focused on their role as a partner in the classroom and strategies they would use to best support their struggling learners within the classroom.

*Teachers can change
lives with just the
right mix of chalk
and challenges.*

Joyce Meyer

New Teacher Mentoring

Considering the teacher shortage that all schools are currently facing, District Goal 3) Attract and retain all stakeholders, should always be a top priority. I have personally set out to do my part in helping principals support their new teachers with hopes that they will learn our “Tupelo Way,” which promotes excellence and forever share a passion of teaching. I make it a priority to personally reach out to all new secondary teachers to the profession and those new to TPSD. I meet with these teachers routinely and provide feedback on everything from classroom management, where to go to find online resources, and how to work the copy machine. I consider it a privilege and an honor to lighten the burden for teachers trying to find their way in a new district. Below is a sample of correspondence between new teachers and myself:

Re: One Heartbeat...



Roxanne M Tucker
Wed 8/21/2019 11:16 AM
To: Melissa S Thomas ↗

↩ Reply | ▾

Inbox

Hi Ms. Thomas!!!! I can't express how nice it is to receive your email! It has been a very different kind of transition but I really enjoy where I am and the people I am working with. I mean different in a *good* way. On the flip side of the conversation, how are you enjoying your new role and title? I am sure we will get to work together in the future. 😊 I have never felt more at home than I do here at TPSD ❤️

Roxanne Tucker

From: Melissa S Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 10:03:57 AM
To: Roxanne M Tucker
Subject: One Heartbeat...

Good morning Ms. Tucker,

I am just checking in to see how your things are going for you this school year 😊. I know first-hand how difficult it may be during transitions to a new district, school or job. I just want you to know that I am here to help with anything you need. Please let me know if you need anything. We are happy to have you at TPSD 💙💛.

*Dr. Melissa Thomas
Director of Secondary Curriculum
(662) 841-8850*

Upcoming Academic Initiatives

Supporting District Goal 5) Ensure all graduates are career/college ready, I am working on the following new initiatives:

1. **ACT 30** A District Initiative to increase the number of students scoring 30 and above on the ACT through early identification, parental information portals, middle school ACT Prep courses, and curriculum integration with ACT standards.
 2. **TPSD Writing Plan** I am currently researching and working with Amy Ferguson and secondary English/Language Arts teachers to develop a TPSD Writing Plan that will help to provide consistent writing procedures, practices, and common vocabulary that will align from elementary to high school.
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