

October 2012 Board Report

1. School Improvement Update – we have been working as a staff to complete our Student Level Review (SLR) and Focused Data Analysis (FNA) for our school improvement efforts. We used our 6-12 vertical alignment work from this summer as the basis for some of the needs analysis. We have met as a staff, John King, and with Region XV specialists to complete the workbooks for both state and federal accountability. Part of our staff development on October 8th was to go over the improvement plan with the staff and discuss implementation of the plan.
2. Professional Development, October 8th – We spent October 8th on data analysis of the first cycle data and curriculum development. We looked at data on not only benchmark performances in all four core areas, but also homework completion, and attendance. We discussed the direct correlation between the lack of homework completion and poor benchmark performance. Our focus for cycle 2 will be to stress homework completion and giving students tools to learn how to study for benchmarks. We also looked closely at our state standards, our TEKS, for each core area. In that discussion we were looking for commonalities in which standards were the most difficult to teach. The common thread in this discussion was that making inferences, drawing conclusions, and completing multi-step processes were troublesome for our students across subject areas. We looked ahead to work at benchmarking and calendaring for Cycle 2.
3. Parent Conferences – we held parent conferences to discuss report cards for cycle 1 on October 10th. Misty Jurardo and Maria Perez made phone calls to schedule all the parents and along with Simply Cervantez were available to help translate for us. This is part of our school improvement plan to increase parent involvement and parent awareness of the level of rigor that our state requires of our students. School is very different from when our parents attended. The standards for their children are set very high and if they don't meet standard, there are Student Success Initiatives (SSI) that apply to the progress of their children through their career in our school system. We used this opportunity to make parents aware of the

importance of homework and study skills. We would like to develop a partnership with our parents to help make our students successful and increase performance.

4. Texas Water Specialist and 4H Ag Agent are meeting with us on November 12th to discuss the water recapture system for our outdoor lab, and to plan for how these specialists can help us in not only our lab project but also complimenting our curriculum with practical application.
5. UIL Meet – our district UIL meet will be in Irion County on December 5-6. We are working on preparations for those contests.
6. Bully Awareness activities and Red Ribbon Week are in October. Mrs. Childress is leading us in these areas as well as in our Why Try initiative to increase student awareness of goal setting and work ethic. Mrs. Childress has been going into classes daily to deliver character lessons, get kids to think about their future and relate the decisions that there are making as middle school students to their future plans.
7. Coffee House Poetry Reading, October 2nd. Mrs. Carty and the 7th grade hosted our 2nd Annual Coffee House Poetry Reading held in our middle school library. Students composed and read their original pieces of poetry to an audience of students and parents. Cappuccino and biscotti were served!
8. 7th Grade Field Trip to Seminole Canyon – the 7th grade took a cross-curricular field trip to Seminole Canyon on October 4th. Students had done a lot of work to prepare for the trip and will use information gathered on the trip in the coming weeks in their classes.
9. 6th Grade Field Trip to the Cemetery – 6th grade took their cross-curricular field trip to the cemetery on October 12th. Students had activities to complete for all core areas.
10. FCA trip to Angelo State October 20th – Students will be attending a FCA rally and ASU football game – this is part of our college readiness initiative to have our students visit college campuses as many times as possible during their middle school career to increase awareness and interest.