

**Board Report
Ozona Middle School
October 26, 2011**

1. Rigor is one of our favorite new words at OMS. We are working on having a significant change in the level of rigor for our students in our curriculum. One of our AVID resources defines rigor: "Academic rigor is not just what is taught, but how it is taught and how it is assessed; a rigorous curriculum is focused, coherent and appropriately challenging". Our state standards and the STAAR test look at readiness standards that will help our students to be successful after high school. We want our students to have choices and be prepared for the challenges of their chosen career path, be that technical school, community college, university or military. Our goal is to prepare the students so that the "world is at their feet" and they don't have to settle for what they can do, but have choices as to what they would like to do with their futures. As we have moved into the world of a focused scope and sequence for our curriculum that C Scope provides and STAAR expects, the level of rigor will rise for teachers and students. These changes will be revealed through the instructional preparation of teachers, the analysis of data and using data to guide instruction, as well as, lower test grades and even lower report card grades for students. One of the findings of our CIT team was that our report card grades were too high to be accurately correlated to our state assessment scores. By raising the level of academic rigor in our class rooms, we can better prepare our students for STAAR and beyond.
2. We have given our first round of benchmarks in cycle one and we have looked at the data by student, subject and grade level. Teachers have created data folders for each student that shows the testing history of the students, as well as, the data from Cycle 1. Our findings were that overall our students did poorly on the first round of benchmarking, however, after re-teaching and a second assessment, the scores of students significantly improved. We have talked about the academic maturity of our students. Many of them did not approach the test with an appropriate level of academic maturity to be successful on the exam. After interviewing students, teachers discovered that students "did not take the exams seriously" or "try their best". These are areas that we will have to address both in the class room and through our character education. We must begin to develop a work ethic in our students and hold our students to a higher standard. Part of that process is being handled in our policy of giving students lunch detention for not completing homework, and having students in both an RtI class, which a focused re-teaching session, and an academic support class which offers lessons in academic vocabulary and other "learning to be a learner skills".
3. Teachers have completed the first cycle assignments for their CIA notebooks. Each teacher submitted a notebook to me and I spent at least 45 minutes individually with each teacher discussing the artifacts in their notebooks. We discussed student and teacher attendance, lesson plan components, benchmarking data by class and individual student. As we move into cycle 2 we will be focusing on improving our data driven decision making skills, utilizing the 5E model of instruction as used by C Scope and improving our focused instruction during the RtI time of our day.

4. The First Annual Ozona Middle School Coffee House Poetry Reading will take place on October 24th at 7:00pm. We will be meeting in the library and showcasing the poetry of our 7th grade students and local poets. Our 7th grade ELA teacher Mrs. Carty has been working with the students on the elements of poetry and so they will be sharing what they have learned with their parents and community members.
5. Our science teachers are attending the CAST conference which is a state conference for science teachers in November. We have had two sessions with our instructional coach, and will have three more before Christmas break. The teachers are working on improving instructional delivery and teaching students to keep track of their own assessment data through student data folders and class room wall charts that track student performance by class period on specific student expectations from the TEKS.
6. Our entire student body attended an information session with the president of ASU and his staff on October 18th. Dr. Rallo and his staff discussed the importance of early planning and looking ahead to student choices after high school. The students enjoyed the presentation and we have had lots of conversation since that day on what our students would like to do after high school and have answered many questions about how the choices they make in middle school and high school greatly affect those plans. ASU also offers some programs for middle adolescents in the coming months that we will be invited to attend. These will provide excellent opportunities for our students to begin to see and understand the university community.
7. Red Ribbon Week is October 24-31st and Mrs. Childress has done a great job of working with both Mrs. Stevens and Ms. Parker on a wonderful week of speakers and activities. They have activities, prizes, and a message for each day of the week.
8. Anna Munn from Region XV will be back on our campus on November 15th to give us additional training and answer questions on C Scope and the 5E model of teaching. This gives our teachers a focused scope and sequence to follow in the delivery of the state standards as well as giving the level of instruction in the class room the appropriate rigor for students to be ready for STAAR and STAAR EOC. By Mrs. Munn coming to us, we can provide teachers with individual tutoring sessions and opportunities to ask questions and improve their instructional delivery to students.
9. The middle school will partner with the high school for our Veteran's Day celebration on November 11th.
10. The middle school will also continue to partner with the HEART program out of Del Rio as part of our sex education initiative. Mrs. Childress and Mrs. Stevens are working with the counselors from Del Rio to plan instruction and complete parent consent forms when necessary.