

From the principal's desk: Board Report



February 9, 2021 Issue 6 "Tricky Moon" Month sãamitsiikíisoõm

BES Dates to Remember!

February: I Love to Read month
Feb. 4 & 18: School leadership Meeting
Feb. 8 - 25: Access for ELLs assessment
Feb. 26: No school

January Focus

Last month our focus at Browning Elementary was focused on the following: 1) Assessing students from a distance on AimswebPlus Math and ISIP Reading test for the winter benchmark, 2) The Gradual Release of Responsibility, and 3) end of second quarter grades.

Winter Benchmark Data by Instructional Coaches

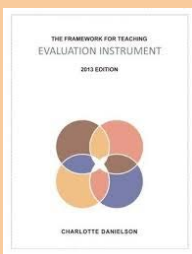
Students are assessed three times a year for fall benchmark (September), winter benchmark (January) and spring benchmark (May) using ISIP reading and AimswebPlus Math. These are computerized tests that students take to assess their skills to determine instructional need for reading and math.

With everyone distance learning from home it created quite a challenge and lots of planning on how to give the assessments remotely. Teachers called all parents/guardians the week before the test to explain the computerized assessments and to set up a date/time to assist their child in testing. Teachers assessed students in small group settings by having the parent sign in on a Google Meet with a second device or by calling in on a phone while their child logged onto the iPad for the assessment. This was how the teacher was able to monitor the assessment and provide directions or support during the assessment.

As a result of their hard work to assess remotely, we have winter benchmark assessment that we are able to analyze to make decisions about individual students, classrooms, grade levels and to determine instructional need or support for the building.

Here is the ISIP Reading Data:

Hot Read



BES staff are evaluated using the Montana-EPAS state model using the Framework for Teaching. The Framework for Teaching has four domains:

- Domain 1: Planning & Prep
- Domain 2: The Classroom Environment
- Domain 3: Instruction
- Domain 4: Professional Responsibilities

This year is like no other, but teachers are still provided feedback in their virtual classroom and supported in the four domains by administrators.

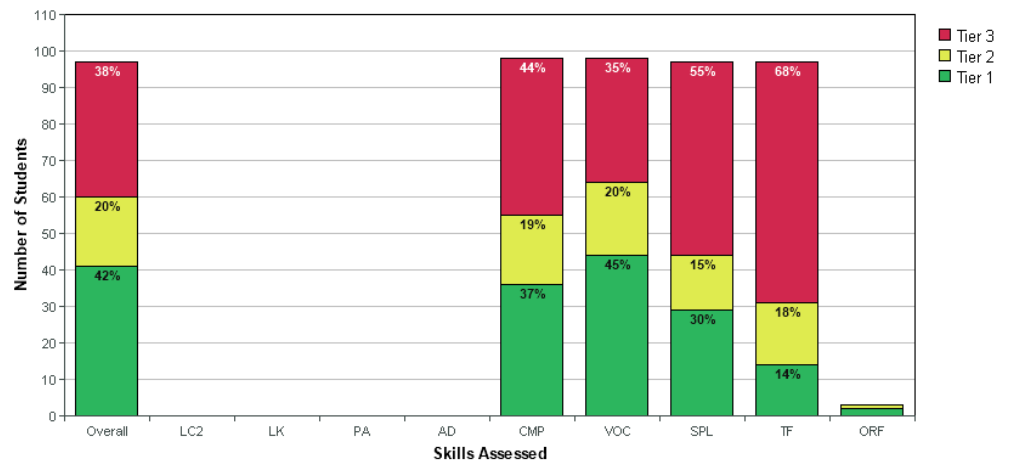
Gradual Release of Responsibility Framework



Although we are teaching online from a distance, staff continue to plan and prep using the Gradual Release of Responsibility Framework for teaching.

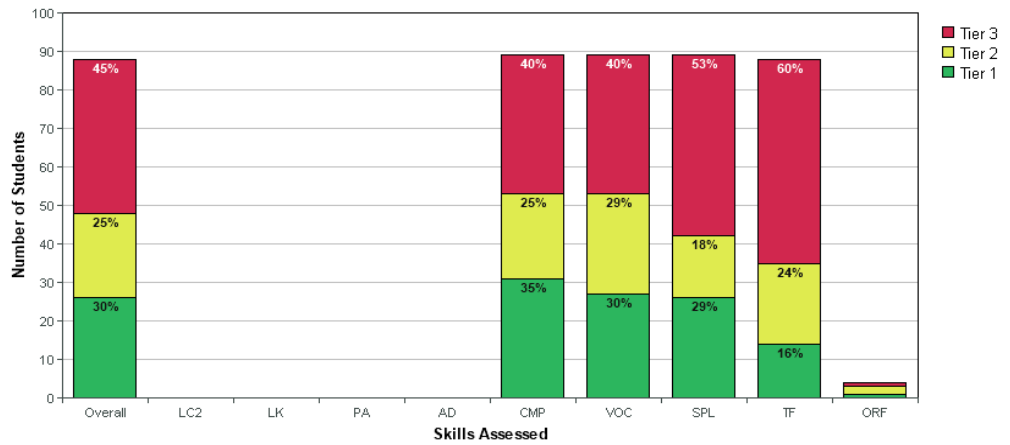
Grade levels worked with the instructional math consultant Mary Buck and the coaches to plan out lessons in Eureka Math. Planning of "I Do" is where the teacher plans how he or she will model the skill and learning objective to the students using explicit teaching of the steps and vocabulary. The responsibility of the teacher in the "I Do" is to provide to students a step-by-step demonstration.

2nd Grade - January 2021



97 out of 142 second grade students were assessed which was 68% of students in second grade. 37 students tested in Tier 3, 19 students in Tier 2, 41 for Tier 1. Looking at the sub skills the areas that need improvement are spelling and text fluency.

3rd Grade - January 2021



88 out of 120 third grade students were assessed which was 73% of students in third grade. 40 students tested in Tier 3, 22 students in Tier 2, and 26 students in Tier 1. Spelling and text fluency subskills continue to be 3rd grades areas to improve upon.

2nd Grade AimswebPlus Math Data



BES Clubs:

The BES STEAM and book club: This club was busy the month of January engaging in

76 of 142 second grade students were assessed which was 53% of students in

various learning activities via Google Meet.

The club members participated in an activity called the Growing Rainbow. Students used washable markers, paper towels and water. On the paper towel they colored a rainbow pattern, then put each paper towel in the water and watched the rainbow grow.

Students learned in this club activity that the rainbow actually grows because the washable markers are water based. When the colored portion of the paper towel touches the water, the water dissolves the water soluble and carries it up through the paper towel as shown in the picture.



The STEAM and Book club also participated in an activity called the Skittles rainbow.

second grade. 27 students tested in Tier 3, 11 in Tier 2, and 38 in Tier 1.

3rd Grade AimswebPlus Math data



79 of 120 third grade students were assessed which was 66% of students. 51 students tested in Tier 3, 13 in Tier 2, and 15 in Tier 1.

Testing in a Virtual Environment

Teachers worked incredibly hard trying to test as many students as possible. Many of them chose to test students at times that were convenient for the parents/guardians with their working schedules. They called families any moment they were not directly teaching students. While this is a lot less students than we as a building usually test, the teachers put in even more hours and work than they ever had to before to try and support their students and complete testing for their class. Their effort went above and beyond. Benchmark testing virtually was challenging for all of us, and quite the accomplishment.

Instructional Coaches

The coaches reviewed the phonic survey data which showed high numbers of students needing to learn letter names/sounds for both cohorts. This coincides with high numbers of students testing into the early phonics skills of cvc, consonant blends, and digraphs.

Teachers filled out a data tracker to identify Tier 2 and Tier 3 students for ISIP. They also selected a student to view their spelling data and identified where the student assessed in relation to phonic skills. They also tracked unknown letter names, sounds, vowels (short, long) and phonic skills for a selected student.

We are implementing the Science of Reading at BES and working with Wendy Farone the Instructional Reading Consultant to provide professional development to staff in aligning the instruction to the Science of Reading. In January, she visited with grade levels about the science of reading and has provided training to the staff on phonology. The coaches have spent time



The BES Culture Club: These clubs meet on every other Monday at noon. Presently there are 16 students signed up. Activities include but not limited to are: Blackfeet Traditional games, miniature tipis, imitation bear/mountain lion, necklace, virtual field trips, creating hand drums, traditional and contemporary Blackfeet song and dance.

The BES Chess club: Meets every other Tuesday at noon. Presently there are 8 students signed up. Students learn the terminology and strategies of the game of chess. Students also compete with each other and practice good sportsmanship. Award medals will be given at the end of the year.

working with her creating and planning ways to support teachers in including the science of reading in their daily instruction and in analyzing and using data to drive instruction.

Testing English Language Learners

Every year English Language (EL) students are assessed in January using the Access for ELLs test to measure EL students toward English language proficiency. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic testing, we were unable to assess students in January. However, OPI has approved an extension to have all EL students tested by February 25th. At BES we have 139 EL students that will be assessed on the Access for ELLs test.

Now that we are approved to test students in the building, the assistant principal Mrs. Heavy Runner and a couple of special teachers are calling the parent/guardian of EL students to schedule a day to bring their child to the school to test. Access for ELLs testing will start February 8th and continue through the month until complete. Here are the assessment dates we will be following:

- Feb. 1- 5: Call families to schedule assessment
- Feb. 8-24: Assess students at the school
- Feb. 25: Last day to assess EL students

Attendance

Attendance for Students

Percentage of whole school:

-76.09%

Percentage by grade level:

-2nd Grade: 77.50%

-3rd Grade: 74.45%

Perfect Attendance of whole school:

-34 students

Perfect Attendance by grade level:

-2nd Grade: 18 students

-3rd Grade: 16 students

Dropped Students and Home Visits:

-No students were dropped in January and the BES Attendance Committee is attempting to re-engage the families with 10 or more absences prior to dropping the students. We are following the BPS Court Referral checklist for attendance.