



Navarro ISD

Board Report

Academic Services

Empower Teachers, Engage Students, Impact Growth

February is a short month packed with many Academic activities. This month I will be sharing our Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) at a public hearing during our regularly scheduled School Board meeting. The TAPR report pulls together a wide range of information on the performance of students in each school and the district every year. Our performance is shown disaggregated by student groups, including ethnicity and socioeconomic status. The reports also provide extensive information on school and district staff, programs, and student demographics. These reports will be published on our district website and parents that would like further information about these reports can directly access them at the following link: https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/perfreport/tapr/tapr_srch.html?srch=D

We are very proud of our Academic UIL team. This month they competed in a highly competitive field of mostly 5A and 6A schools. The Panther UIL Academics Team managed to reach 7th place overall out of 16 teams at the Canyon High School Invitational on Saturday, February 8th. The Panthers distinguished themselves in several events:

Number Sense - 1st Place Team

John Kehoe, Yandel Ramon, Austin Rodriguez, Hongyan Liu
Individually recognition: John Kehoe, 1st place

Calculator Applications - 2nd Place Team

John Kehoe, Yandel Ramon, Jordyn Brucks, Hongyan Liu
Individual recognition: John Kehoe, 2nd place; Yandel Ramon, 5th place

Mathematics - 2nd Place Team

John Kehoe, Yandel Ramon, Giovanna Coello
Individual recognition: John Kehoe, 1st place

Literary Criticism - 2nd Place Team

Claire Mulvaney, Bryce Pircher, Daniel Glinn
Individual recognition: Claire Mulvaney, 4th place; Bryce Pircher, 6th place



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Additional highlights...

Claire Mulvaney earned 5th place in Current Events.

John Kehoe earned 6th place in Science.

Brooke Brown advanced to the finals in Poetry and finished in 6th place.

Both Xavier Mendoza and Sonia Chen made it through to the semi-finals in Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and Sonia earned a bronze medal.

We are very proud of these students and these exceptional accomplishments.

The Navarro Academic Services team has been invited to present at the Texas Rural Schools Spring Conference at the Sheraton Austin Georgetown Hotel & Conference Center on February 25th and 26th. It is truly an honor to be selected to present, and our team deeply appreciates the opportunity to contribute to a conversation that is so vital to the growth and success of rural education. Rural schools play a unique and essential role in shaping the future of our communities, and being able to share ideas, strategies, and insights with fellow educators who are committed to overcoming the distinct challenges we face is both humbling and inspiring. You can learn more about this conference by visiting the following link:

<https://events.esc13.net/ruralschools/>

Instructional Coaching

Professional Learning Community meetings in February will focus on disaggregating middle of the year MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) data, which provides teachers an opportunity to identify trends and develop a plan for targeted instruction to increase student achievement. Our instructional coaches continue to facilitate these meetings at all campuses and work closely with the administration and teachers to address student progress and academic growth.

Mrs. Coppedge and Mrs. Landrum continue to collaborate with Region 20 ESC consultants to support the implementation of High Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) across the district for both Math and Reading. They also support and lead ongoing professional development (PD) activities, and this month their training sessions included: Building Thinking Classrooms, Syllable Types for Advanced Decoding, and Rigby Assessment Calibration. At the elementary campus, Mrs. Coppedge organized and scheduled peer observations for all literacy teachers to observe colleague's teaching practices. These observations allowed teachers to gain valuable insight into the instructional practices of their peers, and fostered collaboration and reflection, which contribute to a culture of continuous improvement.

Furthermore, Mrs. Coppedge and Mrs. Landrum will share their experiences with HQIM implementation at the Texas Rural Schools Conference this month, where they will highlight the teachers and the significant work done by the district to develop support structures for the effective implementation of



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HQIM. These innovative approaches continue to positively impact student learning as evidenced by our benchmark scores.

ESL Services

This month, TELPAS (Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System) tutorials were completed successfully and students feel confident about their upcoming state assessment. The TELPAS window is officially open and testing is off to a great start. ESL students are testing from 2/21-3/27 in the domains of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students in grades 2-12 are tested online, while kindergarten and 1st grade are tested holistically. The ESL Specialists are expecting several students to achieve an advanced or advanced high score so they can be reclassified for next school year and successfully exit the program.

In the month of February, ESL Specialists conducted the middle of year LPAC meetings for all ESL students to determine necessary state assessment accommodations. Teachers also updated instructional accommodations for ESL students who demonstrate a need for them.

The ESL Department hosted a Valentine's Day Friendship Celebration for ESL families. They had a lot of fun playing games and making crafts.

The position for the ESL Paraprofessional at the Junior High is still open and the ESL Specialists are working with Ms. Beutnagel to screen applications and schedule interviews. We hope to have the position filled before the end of the month.

Instructional Technology



Micaela Gissendanner

Instructional Technologist
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The Academic Services team is very proud of Micaela Gissendanner, our instructional technologist, who was selected to present her work with the Technology Integration Matrix at this year's Texas Computer Education Association's annual conference. Her session, titled *Maximize the Matrix: Facilitate Teacher Growth and Student Engagement*, showcased how she developed and utilized an integration matrix to identify classroom technology integration levels to build teacher learning cohorts. She also shared how



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she created professional development sessions that were targeted to the needs of each learning cohort to help teachers increase their integration level and skills.

In an effort to ensure our Eduphoria learning management system is optimized for staff, Mrs. Gissendanner will be introducing a new lesson planning feature of Eduphoria that is being released this spring with the updated Aware Premium package. It is called Beacon and it will assist teachers with developing a fluid planning guide that is aligned with their benchmarks and assessments, and the program easily pulls student data to help the teachers monitor their students and their individual progress. The program would help facilitate our student data meetings because everything will be aligned in one system that will be connected to all of our academic resources.

Recognizing the importance of professional development, Mrs. Gissendanner will be attending professional development sessions on how to amplify TexQuest's resources for CCMR, project based learning, and Learn360 virtual resources. These sessions will be the focus topics for upcoming professional development flyers. Additionally, she is collaborating with the technology department to ensure she is fully trained on Promethean panels in order to support staff that are receiving panel updates in their classrooms.

Thinking ahead to summer professional development, Mrs. Gissendanner is creating a project based learning opportunity for teachers interested in deepening their integration skills. She will also ensure that a variety of e-course subjects are available in Eduphoria for staff to enroll in self-lead sessions.

Gifted and Talented

Mrs. Adams will be testing 55 kindergarten students starting February 10th. Once testing is done, and the G/T Committee meets, testing for all other grade levels will begin. Kindergarten students who qualify will begin to receive classroom services as well as pull out March 1st.

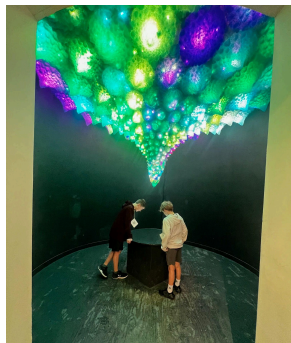
Mrs. Adams is working to schedule educational learning experiences for G/T students utilizing the awarded NEF Grant funds. Kinder-3rd grade will be going to the Doseum where the adventure of learning never ends. 6th and 7th grade students will go to the Lyndon B. Johnson Science Mill to spark curiosity while exploring the museum, and 8th grade students will be immersed in interactive art installations at Hopscotch.





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Pictures from the 2023-2024 Educational Experiences Sponsored by Navarro Education Foundation

Rolando M. Ruvalcaba, M.Ed., Advanced Academics consultant from the Region 20 Education Service Center, will be supporting Mrs. Adams with updating our 5 year plan for our G/T program at Navarro. Mrs. McMullen and Mrs. Williams will be working closely with Mr. Ruvalcaba and Mrs. Adams to ensure we meet the needs of our growing district.

Mrs. Adams is starting the planning process for developing Enrichment courses for our 2025 summer school program. This year, in order to streamline processes, Mrs. Adams plans to utilize Parent Square for registration, payment, and advertising. Mrs. Aralus and Mrs. Miller will help translate information prior to sharing with families.

Working closely with Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Adams is finalizing the Texas Mobile Stem Lab that is visiting the elementary campus in May. We are also planning to have a Stem Night while the Lab is here, so our families have access as well.

Instructional Programs

With a steadfast commitment to enhancing the educational experience for our teachers and students, Mrs. Williams is actively engaged in multiple initiatives, each designed to foster growth and development within our district.

Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA)

One of Mrs. Williams' primary focuses has been the Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA). Collaborating closely with our rural school TIA partner, Region 4, she has meticulously worked through a practice data submission using Mid-Year (MOY) data. This vital step allows us to better understand the current standing of our educators by aligning our data with teacher observations and student performance metrics. It's an invaluable opportunity for reflection and adjustment before the final submission. Furthermore, Mrs. Williams will be partnering with TEA, Region 20, and Eduphoria on February 11th, preparing robust systems for data input to ensure our teachers receive accurate evaluations and support.



Assessment Management

As the district prepares for the upcoming TELPAS assessments, Mrs. Williams has been diligently coordinating with campus testing coordinators and ESL specialists to ensure that every student is correctly identified and prepared for the assessment process in the Cambium system. Her meticulous oversight extends to ensuring a smooth transfer of students new to our district, all while making certain that departing students are properly accounted for at their new schools. With all TELPAS training complete, our campus testing coordinators are collaborating with ESL specialists to create testing sessions. TELPAS testing will conclude in March.

Science and Social Studies Support

Recognizing the importance of responsive curriculum support, Mrs. Williams has been collaborating with Region 20 to provide targeted assistance in Science and Social Studies for our Intermediate and Junior High schools. Through instructional walks and professional development initiatives, specialists are aligning training opportunities with their observations, fostering a culture of continuous improvement that empowers our educators.

High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM)

In her efforts to support the implementation of high-quality instructional materials, Mrs. Williams has conducted thoughtful staff interviews regarding our current curriculum. Her recent attendance at the IMRA (Instructional Materials Review and Approval) workshop yielded valuable resources that align with teachers' requests and meet SBOE approval. With plans to work alongside instructional coaches, she will facilitate a thorough review process, providing teachers with rubrics to evaluate available resources and select materials that best fit the needs of our students. Moreover, Mrs. Williams has been recognized by TEA for her expertise, having been invited to share her experiences with HQIM at the upcoming Rural School Conference on February 25th. This opportunity not only showcases her leadership but also places our district in a favorable light within the larger educational community.

McREL Partnership

In an exciting development, Mrs. Williams was approached by Region 13 to participate in McREL's Balanced Leadership for Student Learning research study. This initiative promises over \$18,000 in free professional development for our campus leaders at the elementary, intermediate, and junior high levels. The McREL research underscores the profound impact of principal leadership on student achievement and emphasizes the connection between leadership practices and educational outcomes, paving the way for enhanced student performance within our schools.

4-Year Planning Meetings

Mrs. Williams also played a crucial role in assisting campus counselors through 4-year planning meetings, providing families with an opportunity to sit down with educators and discuss their children's academic



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future. The success of these meetings has ushered in conversations about how to enhance this experience even further for families in the upcoming year.

Professional Development Newsletter

With an eye toward professional development, Mrs. Williams has published the February edition of our Professional Development Newsletter, providing staff with crucial updates about training opportunities, both in-house and from local regional centers. This communication serves as a vital resource for our educators, fostering a culture of continuous learning.

Checkpoints and Data Utilization

Mrs. Williams supports campus administrators with insights from data points during checkpoint visits. We are able to disaggregate student results and formulate student specific plans for intervention and enrichment. Her involvement ensures that instructional practices and assessment data remain a central focus in driving educational excellence.

Collaborative Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CCNA)

Mrs. Williams is working with Mrs. McMullen and Dr. Kaufmann on our Collaborative Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CCNA), which is mandated by Title I law. With plans to launch the survey for staff and families by the end of the month, this effort will help us identify areas for growth and better serve our community.

Summer School Planning

Planning for summer school is underway. The Academic Services team is meeting with the campus administrators to identify students that would benefit from this extended learning opportunity. Mrs. Williams will be collaborating with Mrs. Adams to develop our enrichment offerings for all students with the intent to expand our offerings to secondary students. We are also coordinating with the Human Resources department to expedite application processes for all interested staff that would like to assist with summer school.

Librarians

Elementary

February is a busy month for the Elementary library. We kicked off the month with the study of Arctic Animals and their habitats. As we finish the month, Mrs. Rierson will host the spring book fair and Reading Restaurant. This event offers a free dinner to families and a free book, all while promoting the love of reading and quality family time.



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2nd grade students have started the Accelerated Reader program this semester and Mrs. Rierson has been busy rostering students in the program so they can effectively chart their reading progress. As first grade students reach their reading milestones, they too are utilizing the Accelerated Reader program to track their reading progress.

Kindergarten participated in the event of the year! They all attended the Wedding of Q and U, where they learned that Q will never be without U and what sound they make together. Students were able to have a small reception back in the classroom with a snack and a dance party.

Pictures below are from the Q and U wedding:





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Intermediate

This month, the Intermediate Library introduced its first makerspace to promote critical thinking and teamwork among students. The makerspace was a huge success, and plans are underway to host another makerspace week later in the year. The Intermediate currently has 14 “Millionaire” students—those who have read one million or more words this school year. As a reward, these students will be taken on a field trip at the end of the year. “Name That Book” club teams have been formed, and students are working to read the books and challenge one another in preparation for the competition in May. Plans for Read Across America Week and the Book Fair are also underway, with both events scheduled for March.

Junior High and High School

The junior high and high school libraries have had busy months with classes coming in to check out books. The librarian has also been collaborating with teachers, both digitally and in person. In addition, teachers have been utilizing the district’s digital TexQuest resources and databases.

Counselors

All district counselors as well as multiple other members of the Academic Services team contributed to completing Personal Graduation Plans at the Junior High campus for outgoing 8th grade students and their parents on January 27th and 28th. On the 29th, Ms. Barta and Ms. Lutz began meeting with the students whose parents were unable to attend these meetings in person. All current 8th grade students now have an academic plan for their next 4 years that will help guide their course selections through high school. Copies of these plans will be sent home to parents soon. We are grateful for the way our team pulled together to provide our students, and their parents, with personalized time and support as they made important decisions about their four-year plans.

Elementary Campus

This February, our campuswide guidance lessons and PLC lessons are centered on our Character Trait “Uniqueness” and celebrating what makes us who we are. We are also celebrating Random Acts of Kindness week with dress-up days, a daily kindness challenge, a week long individual BINGO board for Random Acts of Kindness and a classroom BINGO board which students will use to earn prizes for their classes and promote kindness across our school, homes, and community. We also have our small groups up and running, with students Pre-K through 2nd learning social skills, leadership skills, and more during their Lunch Bunches and other small group activities. I also had the wonderful opportunity to attend the counseling conference in Galveston for professional development which provided many opportunities to gather new ideas and collaborate with other school counselors. Ongoing activities include lunch bunches, individual counseling, crisis response, small groups, tours for new families, and guidance lessons. I will



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also be offering a brief training for Trauma Informed Care during our Professional Development day this month, paired with Self Care ideas for our teachers.

Intermediate Campus

This month we are focusing on coping skills. We are reading “Even Superheroes have Bad Days” and identifying breathing techniques, grounding techniques, and calming techniques that can give us our coping skills super powers. The Kindness Club assigned each day in February with a kindness challenge. Each week in February we are also participating in a campuswide kindness activity. Week 1 was “Kick Off to Kindness.” Our students joined a nationwide campaign for kindness by watching a video that partnered with the NFL to promote kindness in conjunction with the Super Bowl. Students created a kindness jersey to be displayed in the cafeteria. Week 2-we will make cards for the students who lost their school that was destroyed by the fires in California. Week 3-we will watch a student made video about “Why we Love our School.” Our students will also write on a heart cutout to express why they love our school. Week 4-we are going to make a chain of kindness and connect them around the school. Each student will write one way they can make our school a kinder place on a link that will be added to the chain. Our student council is going to the elementary to conduct a Valentine’s Day Stem Lesson with the first graders. They also raised \$288.00 in a coin drive for victims of the California fires. I attended the counseling conference in Galveston the first week in February for professional development for my program. Ongoing activities include lunch bunches, individual counseling, crisis counseling, 504 meetings, and small groups. The Kindness Club will meet twice a month and the student council is the first Tuesday of the month.

Junior High School

After completing all PGP meetings with our current 8th graders, this month Ms. Lutz has been focusing on completing annual 504 meetings and providing guidance and individual counseling sessions for the students. As of now, 95 students have used the established counseling referral system on the campus to advocate for themselves to come in and talk to a counselor about academics, friendships, or personal issues. Ms. Lutz has also been busy enrolling new students and working with them to select their courses as they transition to our JH. On February 13th, she hosted a 6th Grade Parent Night to help our incoming 6th graders learn about the campus and the courses available for them to choose. This month she is also meeting with current 6th and 7th grade students to help them select their courses for next school year. The students have some additional electives to select for next school year including theater, choir, Spanish 1 and Principles of Business. We also have our 2nd lesson for Teen Safety Matters for our 6th grade students which will cover required health TEKS and SB9 requirements. Since February is Kindness month, Ms. Lutz teamed up with Ms Pittman, the Communities in Schools counselor, to have some fun activities for the students throughout the month. Themed days included ***Cozy up with Kindness*** and wear comfy clothes, practice ***Team Kindness*** and wear a sports jersey, ***Shine Bright with Kindness*** and



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wear neon colors, *Ride the Kindness Wave* and wear tropical beach attire and *We Love Kindness* so wear red, pink or Valentine's Day attire.

High School

Both counselors are continuing to meet with students and parents to review their PGPs and plan for their remaining years at Navarro High School. Mrs. Handrick is working closely with seniors ensuring they're meeting all the requirements for graduation. The counselors are also researching Vape-Free school programs that we can implement at the secondary campuses. These programs encourage middle and high school educators to speak with students about the risks of e-cigarettes and nicotine addiction. The schools would also receive free included resources for educators to help students avoid or quit vaping.

Nurses

The nurses are still working on entering all the student health information into the electronic health system including immunization records for newly enrolled students as well as other important health information. They work closely with other districts to obtain important health information and records when new students are enrolled. In order to meet state requirements, the nurses run immunization reports every 30 days to review our district data and ensure we are in compliance.

Our nurses continue to conduct state mandated health screenings for all returning students and newly enrolled students (such as vision, hearing, spinal, and acanthosis nigricans). Students that do not pass these screenings are required to be referred to physicians for further evaluation. Once they receive treatment or a physician's diagnosis, the nurses enter the updated health information into the individual student health record.

Health forms are being completed and returned to counselors, diagnosticians and SPED personnel for students that are being evaluated for learning disabilities. Screening results are submitted in a timely manner as received by the health service staff. These requests are then entered into the EHR (electronic health record system) as well.

The RN's are working together with Mrs. McMullen and Dr. Kauffman on the health staff needs and health clinic procedures. As our district continues to grow, we are seeing increased needs in our clinics. With a new campus opening next year, we want to be proactive in planning for our growing needs to ensure we have the appropriate staff in place to support a growing student population.

RN's and administrators will continue to work together with Safety and Security to ensure safety measures and procedures are in place during a medical emergency on our campuses. Campuses are still in need of nurse subs. We are hopeful that we can find subs with an RN certificate since they are able to



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respond to emergencies and do not have a limited scope of practice, and have the clinical training needed for emergency care.

Nurse Schnautz continues to train new hires on individual student health conditions as needed. She also trains staff members at the start of the school year, as new conditions are reported or students with medical conditions enroll. She works closely with the athletic and music departments to ensure they have trained staff members on board to provide care for those students with medical conditions in their respective programs. She also works closely with Ms. Voigt to ensure the 504 and SPED Skilled Nursing Forms are completed correctly for those students that qualify.

Nurse Kernan at the Jr High campus is diligently working on providing parents with SHARE Program information and ensuring all students have turned in their “opt out” forms before the cut-off date if they elect not to participate in this program. SHARE notices will be sent out mid-April, with opt out letters due Friday May 2 as the presentation is scheduled for May 6, 7, and 8. The Parent meeting date is pending at this time.

PEIMS

This year, Mrs. Ballard has implemented enhanced systems to strengthen the accuracy and integrity of our student data entry, reporting, and verification processes. These efforts are critical to ensuring compliance with state and federal guidelines while fostering accountability across all levels of staff.

**The term “stakeholder” in this report is defined as any person who is the primary overseer of a program, office, campus, or department that deals with any type of student or PEIMS data.*

Key initiatives include:

- ***Establishing a comprehensive system of checks and balances to ensure accurate student data entry and reporting.***

This is a multi-tiered system that promotes accountability within data entry processes. Mrs. Ballard has created and disseminated a standardized protocol for data entry across all campuses. She has worked with PEIMS staff and campus administrators to designate roles for the entry, verification, and approval of data. She has also streamlined a system for keeping records of auditable data.

- ***Enhancing communication and verification among program directors, administrators, and other stakeholders.***

Mrs. Ballard has amplified six weeks reports by adding verification of student data by Dyslexia teachers and Special Education case managers. For PEIMS and Core Collection submissions, she has established a system of distributing reports to relevant stakeholders, while providing clear



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guidelines on reviewing the reports to confirm accuracy or identify potential discrepancies. As a part of this process, Mrs. Ballard has developed a cover sheet with a description of reports to be reviewed and customized for each stakeholder's data that they sign-off on. This ensures an additional layer of oversight before data is finalized for reporting.

- ***Implementing stricter oversight protocols to affirm the integrity of our data.***

Mrs. Ballard uses secondary reporting by creating customized reports from the district's Student Information System, Ascender, to cross-reference with the reports generated by TSDS (Texas Student Data System). These secondary reports serve as an extra verification tool to identify any inconsistencies or anomalies in the data.

The implementation of these strategies has led to several positive outcomes. There is notable improved accuracy of student data, significantly reducing discrepancies from previous reporting periods. Furthermore, there is enhanced engagement and oversight by program directors, administrators, and stakeholders, as they are more actively involved in the verification process. The increased accountability with clear documentation of supervisory reviews and sign-offs has provided an extra assurance of data integrity.

Moving forward, Mrs. Ballard will continue to refine our district's checks and balances system based on feedback from PEIMS personnel, administrators, directors, and stakeholders to ensure ongoing effectiveness. These initiatives that Mrs. Ballard has undertaken exemplify her commitment to maintaining the highest standards of data accuracy and compliance.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy McMullen

Navarro ISD Chief Academic Officer