

## **March Board Report Ozona Middle School**

### **Instructional Rounds**

**Dr. Elizabeth City describes Instructional Rounds as a disciplined way for educators to work together to improve instruction. Instructional Rounds asks educators to hold up a mirror to their instruction; they are fundamentally descriptive and analytic, not evaluative. Rounds can help a campus of educators take instruction to the “next level”, to help build an understanding of effective learning and teaching, reduce variability between classrooms, and to provide data for improved professional development.**

**We heard Dr. City speak at the Texas ASCD conference last fall. She is a professor at Harvard University and a native of Arkansas. She has a true understanding of the challenges facing rural education. Mrs. Jackson and I felt that Instructional Rounds was the next step for our district teachers to take in improving instruction. There was an opportunity to go to the training in Texas but the training was geared toward big districts with many assistant superintendents and curriculum coordinators. To get into Dr. City’s program at Harvard University however, we had to go through an application process, but the cost was the same as the Texas training. We received some school improvement grants this fall, and during our planning we set aside part of the grants in case we were selected into the educational cohort at Harvard Graduate School of Education. We found out on March 18<sup>th</sup> that we had been accepted and are very excited to take Katrece Hale and Peggy Logan with us as a team to the training April 27<sup>th</sup> to May 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will not only be able to use the training to improve instruction and student performance in our district but in other districts in Region XV as well through the service center. We feel that students in Ozona deserve the best, and the educational community at the Harvard Graduate School of Education is one the best in our nation. We are honored and excited for Crockett County to be represented among these educators.**

### **Curriculum and Instruction**

**Our second round of mock testing was completed March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. As we gather data from these assessments, we will focus our classroom instruction on the areas of identified weakness. As I mentioned last month, C Scope is a good tool for curriculum alignment, so we want to keep working with that plan. However, we are maximizing other times of our day to fill in gaps such as during technology, RtI, and Academic Support.**

### **School Improvement**

**We are continuing to work through our school improvement plans: data analysis, focused instruction, and student-centered instruction. We are continuing to benchmark and analyze student data to target areas of needed improvement. Our next round of reporting is at the end of March. Mr. Byrd has asked us to really focus our efforts on maximizing every minute that we can in these last weeks to help students improve in not only their skill sets for testing areas, but also strategies and vocabulary. Our instructional coaches are still working with teachers to improve instruction through those targeted efforts, as well. We are working on Think Through Math in our technology classes. This is an online tutorial tool that gives students and teachers immediate feedback on math skills. We are**

hopeful that this will help us in the area of math, but also to work on problem solving and thinking strategy skills.

#### **Homework House-Extended Day**

We are going to use our Homework House time from now until testing time for both homework completion and test prep. We have some students that have made great strides this year, and hopefully, we can continue to make improvements in student performance between now and testing.

#### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Members of our TMSCA Team (Texas Math Science and Calculator Association) have qualified for the state competition at UTSA in San Antonio: in science Caleb Webb(6), in mathematics Josh Knaack(6), and the calculator team of Rachel Mendoza(8), Cassidy Gonzalez(7), Denise Rodriguez(7), Samantha Torralba(7), and Coulter McWilliams(6). Mrs. Harmsen is our sponsor this year and she has done a great job with our students in getting them to this level.

Our track teams finished up on March 26<sup>th</sup> and we are so proud of their accomplishments this year.