

November Board Report
Ozona Middle School

1. Curriculum and Instruction – We are just beginning Cycle 3. Teachers have submitted their instructional focus calendars and are working on preparing students for another round of CBA's before Christmas. We met on October 28th and 29th to work on our vertical alignment, 1-12, in each of the core areas. WE will meet again in December. Teachers discussed the progress students had made toward goals set at our summer workshop over data, and we discussed current data from our CBA's this fall, curriculum alignment and testing strategies, PATS RUBIES. Across the board our students struggle with multi-step problems, making inferences and drawing conclusions; these are areas that we are working to improve across the curriculum. Students can work through the first layer of a task, but as the problem asks them to take their information through another step or up another level on the cognitive ladder, they are struggling. We are working on helping them to work at the synthesis/analysis levels of Bloom's Taxonomy. One of the problems we see district –wide is **retention of knowledge** from one year to the next. Our students are unable to retain knowledge and attach new learning to what was taught in the previous grade. In essence, very little knowledge is carried over from one grade to the next. As a staff we are looking at how we can address the problem of a large population of economically disadvantaged students who are struggling to hold on to learning from one year to the next. We are also focusing on our campus to make sure students complete EVERY assignment given to them at least with a mastery level of 70%. Our passing rate for the 2nd cycle was 87.5%. Our goal is to have that above 90% for cycle 3.
2. School Improvement – We have completed Student Level Reviews for cycles 1 and 2. Our campus has also completed our Campus Improvement Plans. Our plans for state improvement and our plan for federal requirements mirror the same efforts that we began last year: CBA's, CIA notebooks, and curriculum alignment through TEKS Resources. Our professional development focus for the year is Data Wise, a comprehensive study that will help us to use current data to drive instructional decisions, and hold students responsible for their own data. Our instructional problem of practice is using higher order thinking skills in both instruction and assessment. Our students challenge is retention. Students are not able to carry skill sets from year to year with them.
3. Extra-Curricular –For Red Ribbon Week, Mrs. Childress decorated the school and brought in speakers in conjunction with the high school. We had dress-up days and she set-up centers in the school with information for staying drug-free. We also finished up our Anti-Bullying Campaign in October led by Mrs. Childress. Our school is decorated with the posters the students made during this campaign. For Veteran's Day our 8th grade band, MISC Kids and NJHS, along with Mrs. Childress, Mrs. Hale and the band directors organized our annual program for

the veterans. Students greeted our guests as they came into the building, formed a victory line to the cafeteria and honored our veterans with a wonderful program. Our school was well-represented by these young people. Our Fall Book Fair will be held November 18th – 22nd. We have started our basketball season and are preparing for UIL competition. Our UIL Meet will be in Wink on December 11th with several of the contest conducted on our campus before that date. Teachers are working before school, after school and during our RtI time to prepare students for competition. We will also be having our annual Christmas Band Concert with the high school band on December 19th.

4. Homework House –We have Homework House Monday through Thursday at the middle school, both in the mornings and afterschool to help students study for CBAs and complete homework assignments. Students can be assigned to Homework House for failure to complete homework, or they can also just come to Homework House to receive help. We had an 8% failure rate for cycle 1 and an 11.8% for cycle 2, however, cycle 2 material is considerably more difficult than cycle 1. Our goal for cycle 3 is to use homework house to reduce the failure rate to under 10%. If we can get students to do every assignment to at least 70% mastery then we can ensure that they have as much content knowledge as possible for the STAAR.