April Board Report
Ozona Middle School

Curriculum and Instruction

We are working on preparation for the STAAR (State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness). As I have mentioned before, we are not "teaching to the test; we are following our scope and sequence which ensures that instruction will focus on all TEKS. We will finish our preparations for the state assessment days on April 22, 23 and 24; we will then finish out the year focusing on the remaining TEKS in our scope and sequence.

In preparation for next year, our professional development will include educating our staff in a more in-depth understanding of teaching students of poverty, finalizing our master schedule and bell schedule to help ensure success for a Title 1 campus, and working on the next step towards instructional rounds, peer observation. We are also going to be learning to use our new resource materials from the textbook adoption for math and science. This will help us to make instructional decisions for the 2014-2015 school year.

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. We are trying 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. 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, Summer School

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. We are also looking ahead to Summer School. The STAAR has a "phase-in "standard, and if our students don't make the set standard for this year, then we have concerns about them making the higher one for next year, so we are making plans for a summer school program to address students in 6-8 that will need to have significant improvement to meet the standards for the 2014-2015 school year. We are also working on the possibility of running two flights of summer school, one in June for the students that must retest, and one in August for our students that did not pass STAAR this spring, so that perhaps our retention rate will be higher because the session will be right before school begins.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Members of our TMSCA Team that qualified for the state competition at UTSA in San Antonio did a great job:

Number Sense: 6th grade Manuel Torralba – 7th place, Desiree Gruben – 16th, Humberto Torralba – 17th . They got 14th place team with only 3 members (team score is usually top 4 scores for a school)

Calculator: 6th grade Manuel Torralba – 10th, Humberto Torralba – 11th, Jacob Childress – 14th.

8th grade: Samantha Torralba – 8th, Kassidy Gonzalez – 15th, Denise Rodriguez – 18th .

These students placed 6th as a team: Samantha Torralba, Kassidy Gonzalez, Denise Rodriguez and Manuel Torralba.

(that is 6th place out of 18 schools!!)

Mathematics: 6th grade Manuel Torralba – 10th, Humberto Torralba – 14th, Desiree Gruben – 15th

7th grade Chantz Elliott – 14th, Josh Knaack – 15th

8th grade Sara Gunnels – 14th, Danny Posadas – 19th

These students placed 6th as a team: Sara Gunnels, Danny Posadas, Chantz Elliott, and Manuel Torralba.

Science: 6th grade – Tyler Webb – 33rd

7th grade: Josh Knaack – 24th, Coulter McWilliams – 25th

8th grade: Brenna Hale – 23rd, Roman Esparza – 25th

These students placed 9th as a team: Brenna Hale, Roman Esparza, Josh Knaack and Coulter McWilliams.

Overall we placed 7th out of 18 1A schools!!