



Navarro ISD

Board Report

Academic Services

Empower Teachers, Engage Students, Impact Growth

March 2025

Greetings from the Academic Services Team,

We hope everyone had a fun and relaxing Spring Break. As we enter the middle of the second semester, we are looking ahead to many end of the year activities. Our team remains committed to fostering an environment where every student can thrive academically and personally. Planning is already underway for the district's summer enrichment programs, which will offer academic support and extracurricular activities for all students. We will be sending detailed information out to all families at the beginning of April.

Instructional Coaching

This month, after the administration of STAAR aligned spring benchmark assessments, Mrs. Coppedge and Mrs. Landrum worked with grade level teams in PLC meetings to conduct an analysis of student progress data in order to prepare for the upcoming STAAR assessments. In collaboration with teachers and campus administrators, the instructional coaches examined performance trends across various student subpopulations, identified areas of strength and those requiring targeted interventions, and developed specific instructional plans that addressed these identified gaps. They also helped to identify instructional resources to support students' mastery of the content as they continue to prepare for their upcoming state assessments.

In order to foster a culture of collaboration and continuous learning, Mrs. Coppedge and Mrs. Landrum have initiated a series of peer observations, which provides teachers with an opportunity to share research-based instructional strategies related to high quality instructional material (HQIM) implementation, as well as innovative instructional practices. Following the peer observations, teachers engaged in a debrief discussion to reflect on their own instructional practices. Mrs. Coppedge and Mrs. Landrum also continue to work closely with educational consultants from Region 20 to enhance the implementation of HQIM in the classroom. These instructional walks allow the instructional coaches to collect quantitative data on the implementation of HQIM, while observing lesson delivery and student engagement.

Mrs. Landrum has conducted a comprehensive review of SBOE approved math curricular resources with the participation of all math teachers across the district. This review analyzed the alignment of various curricular resources to the state standards and HQIM criteria using a rubric. The outcomes of this review



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will inform future curriculum adoptions to ensure that teachers are equipped with materials that will best support instructional delivery.

ESL Services

TELPAS (Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System) continues to advance smoothly. The collaboration between the ESL Specialists, Campus Testing Coordinators, and Instructional Technology personnel has made this process run very smoothly with minor hiccups that were easy to fix on site. Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Arlaus would like to thank all those involved in the logistics planning process. The Elementary and Intermediate campuses have successfully completed all four domains of testing at this time. The Junior High and High School will complete their final domains of testing on March 25th. As the ESL Specialists have been doing in previous years, when the TELPAS results are released, they will assess the data to finalize proper reclassification recommendations for the end of year LPAC meeting in April.

Mrs. Arlaus met with the ESL Paraprofessionals, Mrs. Sneed and Mrs. Herrera, to adjust the post-assessment ESL Service Plan for the elementary and intermediate. The adjustments made allow for the ESL Paras to provide more individualized services for newcomer (students in the United States for less than three years) emergent bilingual students and more push-in services to content area classes. This allows for more support as we approach STAAR testing.

The ESL Paraprofessional position at the Junior High is still open. The hiring team continues to search for a highly qualified bilingual individual to provide adequate support to our emergent bilingual students and families, especially the newcomers. The Junior High is hopeful to fill the position soon.

Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Arlaus were the only attendees for the Region 20 TXEL Portal training and received individualized information specific to the needs of Navarro ISD through the Portal. It was a wonderful opportunity to have our community's needs addressed specifically by Region 20 and the TXEL Portal.

Mrs. Miller is happy to report on one of the collaborative initiatives between the ESL program and the secondary counselors, that 8 emergent bilingual students at the Junior High and 5 emergent bilingual students at the High School took the Spanish CBE (credit by exam) and earned high school credit. The next step for these students is to get the Spanish Endorsement in High School and continue their Spanish education so they will become biliterate (listen, speak, read, and write fluently in two languages).

In the fall semester, the ESL Department received a grant to receive PockeTalk translating devices for each campus. The ESL Department is happy to report that both students and staff are utilizing these devices to make personal connections between staff, parents, students, and content. Newcomer emergent bilingual students at the Junior High and Elementary level are very responsible with the devices and have no



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problems with using them at this time in all content and elective courses. The ESL Specialists are already planning to write another grant to purchase a variety of translating devices to expand their fleet.

Instructional Technology

Mrs. Gissendanner has been collaborating with our systems administrator to ensure that our district's transition from the Eduphoria Lockdown Browser kiosk to the Lockdown Chrome extension runs smoothly. She released a how-to-guide to all campuses and supported benchmark testing sessions at the Junior High and Intermediate campuses to ensure staff and students felt comfortable with the new testing procedures.

Recognizing the importance of collaboration, she has provided a variety of support to the high school campus this month. Mrs. Gissendanner helped facilitate the staff professional development day on February 18th and connected the high school administration team with SmartPass, a digital hall pass system and accountability solution. Additionally, she spent time in both English and History classrooms to help support students in creating Canva newspapers and video projects.

Focusing on the importance of high-quality instructional resources, this month's professional development flyer focused on the Britannica School component of TexQuest. She will be providing an updated TexQuest e-course as a component of the summer professional development offerings this year.

Finally, Mrs. Gissendanner is thrilled to have had an opportunity to tour the SmartLab at Kirby Middle School in Judson ISD. This visit provided insight into how Navarro ISD could utilize a SmartLab space to address technology applications proficiency, as well as, increase student engagement and rigor, specifically in the STEM field..

Gifted and Talented

Mrs. Adams participated in GT- Equitable Identification with Universal Assessment and Local Norms hosted by MHS, the testing company used for G/T assessments. Having the opportunity to hear the research and the why behind the testing has been beneficial to helping us address some equity issues our district is facing. In addition to this training, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Williams, and Mrs. McMullen met with our Region 20 representative Rolando Ruvalcaba to begin updating our 5-year G/T plan for Navarro ISD. During this meeting, Mrs. Adams was able to schedule two in person professional development training days for our teachers to assist them with their annual 6-hour training update which is required by the State Plan. Additionally, we will be partnering with other local districts to provide our teachers with a wider range of opportunities to receive professional development hours in other areas of interest. Our team is creating a choice sheet with a QR code that the Principals will be able to share in summative meetings with teachers so they can select and sign-up for which professional development sessions best meet their personal needs.



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G/T Testing Update

Currently we are testing 65 kinder students, and we have over 30 students in 1st-12th grade to test after Kindergarten testing is complete.

Field Trips

Utilizing our awarded NEF Grant funds, we currently have 5 field trips scheduled for this semester and we have plans to schedule a few more.

Learning Undeclared STEM Texas Mobile Stem Lab was chosen to visit Navarro Elementary in May. The lab will visit from May 6th-9th, and classes will have access to the lab for an hour each. During this visit, a parent night can be scheduled as well. Mrs. Adams is working with the campus to take advantage of this collaboration as well.

Learning Undeclared provides new activities for the Texas Mobile STEM Labs centered around cross-curricular STEM experiences. These activities will introduce STEM to students from Kindergarten through Grade 8, and allow students to engage with the engineering design process. Learning Undeclared will provide the materials needed to complete engineering design challenges focused on brainstorming, designing, and testing. All activities focus on students designing solutions to real-world problems and allow for collaboration and exploration of the content.

Summer Enrichment Programs

Mrs. Adams is working directly with Mrs. Williams on Enrichment opportunities for our students through our summer program. Currently, we are exploring 8 possible camps that will focus on student interests, and parent and teacher feedback. Parents will receive detailed information about these enrichment camps soon.

Instructional Programs

Mrs. Williams recently participated in the Rural Schools Conference in Georgetown, where she collaborated with the Academic Services team to present on the implementation of High-Quality Instructional Materials in Navarro. The session attracted a considerable audience, and feedback from the Texas Education Agency praised the content. Additionally, Mrs. Williams will attend the final Strong Foundations Cohort meeting, a requirement of the LASO II grant, where she will share insights on HQIM implementation in Navarro and outline the next steps for the 2025-26 school year. She will also present a rubric designed to evaluate materials from the State Board of Education list, ensuring they align with the needs of our students and teachers.



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Testing Preparations

As the spring testing season approaches, Mrs. Williams has been proactively working with our contacts at TestHound to secure the necessary data files for accurate tracking of testing materials. All STAAR ALT 2 materials have been checked in, and preview sessions will begin shortly. TELPAS testing is already underway, with ongoing assessments scheduled throughout the testing window to provide our students with ample time to succeed.

To prepare for the upcoming state assessments, Mrs. Williams has organized work sessions with campus testing coordinators. These sessions will cover creating testing schedules, verifying accommodations, printing test tickets, providing campus training, and assembling test buckets.

Extended Learning and Resource Accessibility

During our campus checkpoint meetings, we discussed how additional resources for families would greatly enhance extended learning and enrichment at home. Mrs. Williams is actively updating the Navarro Ready, Prepared, and Engaged webpage with instructional resources that parents can easily access from home to support their child with their learning. The following QR code card was created for parents, allowing them to navigate these resources with ease from home. There are also instructional videos that provide basic training and an overview of each platform, including programs such as IXL and the Khan Academy.



Professional Development Initiatives

In response to staff needs, Mrs. Williams has published the March Professional Development (PD) newsletter. She is collaborating closely with regional partners to design tailored PD opportunities for our staff. Additionally, she is working with the team to compile a document detailing professional learning opportunities offered by Navarro staff, and campus principals can utilize this document during teacher end-of-the-year summative meetings to align recommended staff PD with areas of need.

Teacher Incentive Allotment Update

Mrs. Williams maintains regular contact with the Rural Schools Teacher Incentive Allotment Cohort to monitor the progress of our application, which is currently 90% completed. A meeting with our liaison is scheduled for Thursday to finalize the review by Region 15 before submission to the Texas Education Agency. Simultaneously, we are conducting data validation using the TEA tool, and collaborating with



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campus administration to ensure that observations are aligned. Mrs. Williams is analyzing student growth data to aid this alignment process and is sharing relevant findings with staff.

Summer School Planning:

Mrs. Williams has worked with the HR department to post summer school applications online. Selected summer school staff will be notified the Friday before Spring Break and will have two weeks to accept or decline their positions. She is also collaborating closely with our curriculum coaches to align summer content with student needs, and working with G/T Facilitator, Mrs. Adams, to develop summer enrichment opportunities. Families will be informed of these opportunities by the end of the month, giving them adequate time to make decisions.

Streamlining Academic Services Webpage:

Finally, Mrs. Williams is partnering with Mrs. Ormond to enhance the Academic Services webpage, ensuring that all necessary postings are easily accessible to our community.

Librarians

Elementary

We started February off with a quick research unit into Polar Animals and explored with Library books and Pebble Go. We wrapped up February with the Book Fair, and Reading Restaurant event. Our Book Fair was extremely successful, and the Reading Restaurant allowed for families to slow down for a night, eat a free dinner together, and each family received a free book to take home. The Library hosts this event, however the elementary student council helps sponsor the meal.



Intermediate

March at the Intermediate starts off with Read Across America week. Students participate in dress-up days and Dr. Seuss trivia. Students also receive Read Across America goodies throughout the week including a free book. March will also include the spring book fair and a family night. Brag tags for the 3rd grading period will be given out in March as well. Mrs. Sindt and the teachers are utilizing the



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TexQuest program to document classroom libraries so parents can see a list of additional books that are available for the students outside of the library.

Junior High and High School

Both the junior high and high school campus libraries have been staying busy with visits from teachers and classes. Large book orders have been placed this month for both campuses to fulfill student interests, library needs, and academic needs. Additionally, the librarian has consulted with teachers about TexQuest resources and how to best use them to suit their needs in the classroom.

Counselors

Elementary Counselor

In March, we are moving into learning about Cooperation as our Core Essentials Value of the Month. We will be doing lots of activities on Teamwork during our guidance lessons and PLC time. Lunch bunches are going strong with students learning about making friends, social skills, self-control, mindfulness, emotional regulation, and more. Mrs. Dahl was also able to attend the Region 20 School Counselor Showcase to learn from many other counselors throughout our region and will be bringing some of these ideas back to our district. We are also celebrating World Down Syndrome Day by wearing blue. Ongoing counseling activities include guidance lessons, individual and small group counseling sessions, along with Special Education referrals, student check-ins, and crisis intervention.

Intermediate Counselor

In March we are heading into testing season. Mrs. Clardy's lesson for the month will focus on test taking strategies and how to reduce testing anxiety. The theme for the month will be Navarro Intermediate is "One in a Minion." Counseling lessons will cover tips and tricks for testing from a minion perspective. Each student will decorate a minion that represents who they are and display it in the cafeteria.

Mrs. Clardy will also be taking the student council to the Capitol this month where they will learn about how government works and then they will complete their student council constitution.

The Kindness Club will focus on making a video demonstrating "Why We Love Our School," and Mrs. Clardy will continue to meet with lunch bunches, and conduct individual check ins and crisis intervention throughout the month.

Junior High Counselor

Ms Beutnagal and Ms Lutz visited the Intermediate campus to present course sheets to incoming 6th graders, and they shared information about all the classes that are offered at the junior high campus. On campus, Ms Lutz visited each current 6th and 7th grade science class to help students fill out course sheets. She also highlighted new opportunities for the students to elect high school credit classes. Ms



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Lutz is working on getting all 6, 7, and 8th grade course sheets completed in our student information system so the campus can begin planning for next year and further develop the campus Master Schedule. This process also helps us to identify staffing needs based on student course selections. Currently, we see an increased interest in theater arts and Spanish classes. Students are still filling out counselor referrals to be seen for academics, personal, and social challenges. CIS has been busy with lunch groups and providing support.

High School Counselors

Mrs. Handrick has finished meeting with her students for course selection for the 2025-2026 school year. With course selections completed, Mr. Scarborough, Mrs. Hansen and Mrs. Handrick are starting to work on the master schedule for next year. Enrollment numbers are being reviewed to determine the number of sections we will need for each subject area. After that, sections will be created in Ascender, our student information system, and we will begin to develop our 2025-2026 master schedule and students will be placed in their elected courses.

Mrs. Handrick continues to audit transcripts, meet with seniors about grades and attendance, and monitor CCMR credits for accountability purposes. She will be attending a week-long professional development program at Camp Pendleton in San Diego in April as a guest of the Marine Corp to learn more about their available programs for our students. This training will also make us more aware of the requirements of enlisting in the military so we can better inform our students about their options.. Navarro High School has 9 seniors this year who are committing to the military upon graduation. We continue to have representatives from colleges, trade schools and the military on campus several times a week. Notices are sent out to the students to let them know who will be here each week so they can schedule time to visit with these representatives and ask any questions they may have about their programs and options.

Scholarship information is being sent out on a weekly basis to all seniors to encourage their participation and to provide them with deadline reminders. We are fortunate that we have many available scholarships in our local community including GVEC, the Rotary Seguin Endowed Scholarship, the Seguin American Legion, the Bartoskewitz Farm Foundation Scholarship, the Guadalupe County 4-H Booster Club Scholarship, and the McQueeney Lions Club Scholarships to name a few.

Mrs. Barta is finalizing all course requests with her assigned students. Course selections for these students have been entered into Ascender and she is completing her parent meetings in the next few weeks. She is also continuing to hold weekly check-in meetings with students to monitor their progress both academically and emotionally. Mrs. Barta has announced that she will be officially retiring at the end of this school year, so she is working diligently to make sure everything is ready for the new counselor



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that will be taking her place in the fall. We wish Mrs. Barta all the best as she begins this new adventure and thank her for her care and service to our students. She will be missed.

Nurses

The Nurses are actively engaged in comprehensive student health management. Their continued key responsibilities include:

- **Direct Student Care:** Providing ongoing healthcare services to all students.
- **Immunization Management:** Verifying immunization records, issuing reminders for students with provisional enrollment, and ensuring compliance with state regulations.
- **Health Screenings and Follow-up:** Conducting health screenings for new students and those previously absent, and managing follow-up procedures for students requiring physician referrals.
- **Individualized Health Care Plans (IHPs):** Developing and implementing IHPs for students with medical conditions, and disseminating necessary information to relevant staff.
- **Nutritional Support:** Collaborating with the nutrition department, providing physician-prescribed dietary modifications (e.g., Carlette Drabeck notes), and serving as the Food Allergy Management Team.
- **Disease Surveillance and Response:** Adhering to Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines regarding the recent measles outbreak in Texas.
- **Operational Preparedness:** Preparing for the 2025-2026 school year by ordering supplies, managing inventory (including AED supplies).
- **Preparations for the 2025-2026 School Year:** Distributing parent notifications regarding immunizations, health care plans, emergency care plans, and sending notices to parents regarding updated health care plans, emergency care plans, medication refills, medication pick up and updating physician medication and procedure orders for the 2025-2026 school year.

PEIMS

Mrs. Ballard is diligently navigating the consistent state-wide issues that the Ed-Fi upgrade has placed on PEIMS submissions. Both TEA's systems and the individual vendors are still working to identify and clear up programming that is causing errors and delays. So far, all of the PEIMS submissions this fall have been extended by TEA, some multiple times. Despite the setbacks, Navarro ISD has met all PEIMS and Core Submission deadlines this school year. The two submissions due in March are detailed below:

Class Winter Roster

This collection reports data on course offerings, teacher demographics, teacher class assignments, student demographics, and student class enrollments. It is used to collect information in relation to the accountability for state-mandated teacher preparation programs and also to identify teachers eligible for Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA).



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Civil Rights Data Collection

This collection is used by the U.S. Department of Education to obtain data related to the nation's public school districts and their obligation to provide equal educational opportunity. The collection includes student enrollment data disaggregated by race/ethnicity, sex, English learners, and students with disabilities.

In conclusion, March has been an exciting and productive month for our academic program. We continue to see strong student engagement, positive outcomes in assessments, and ongoing professional development for our educators. As we head into the final stretch of the school year, we want to thank you for your continued support and dedication to our district's mission and goals.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy McMullen

Navarro ISD Chief Academic Officer