

# Joyner Elementary Star School Visit



Hernando Hills Elementary  
Desoto County Schools

# Hernando Hills Elementary

- Student/teacher ratio: 26:2  
(full-time assistant in each 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom)
- Bi-weekly grade-level and cross grade-level planning (with principal)
- After school program/partnership with the YMCA
- Diagnostic testing (MAP and Case 21)
- Accelerated Reader/Math
- Classroom libraries organized by topic

# Thumbs Up

- Interdisciplinary thematic units
- GAP time
- Weekly common grading/Assessment pieces

# Noticeable Differences

- Student learning environment
- Lack of defined/consistent resources (teacher/students)

# Points to Ponder

- Core curriculum implemented 2011-2012
- Planning stages of thematic units for 2012-13 school year incorporating Common Core
- Focused staff meeting and flex-days are based on current student and faculty needs (data assessment, curriculum, TST, technology)

# S.A.M.

# High Performing School Visit



Pontotoc High School  
Pontotoc City Schools

# Pontotoc High School

- Accountability Status: High Performing
- QDI: 198
- Growth Status: Met
- Graduation Rate: 78.7
- HSCI: 209.9

# Mission

Our mission at Pontotoc High School is to inspire our students to become problem solvers, life-long learners, and productive members of our community. Our goal at PHS is to be the number one high school in the state of Mississippi.



# Beliefs

The following belief statements underscore the vision and mission of Pontotoc High School:

- All students are learners.
- Students' learning needs are the chief priority of all decisions impacting the work of the school.
- Teaching and learning are the shared responsibility of the student, teacher, home and supported by the community.
- Learning involves decision-making, problem solving, and risk-taking where students are actively engaged in the learning process and are provided opportunities to apply their learning in meaningful contexts.
- Students learn in different ways and should be provided a variety of instructional approaches and assessment opportunities to support learning and demonstrate their achievement.
- A safe and physically comfortable environment promotes student learning.
- The value of each individual student is promoted through positive relationships, mutual respect and understanding of cultural diversity.
- The commitment to continuous improvement is imperative.

# Thumbs Up

- The students were well behaved in the hallways, cafeteria and classrooms. Break detention was assigned if the students misbehaved. Negative behavior in the classrooms is not tolerated.
- All students entered class prepared with pencil, paper, etc. The teacher explained the students are taught this when they enter the Pontotoc City Schools from K-5.
- Differentiated Instruction is prevalent in all classrooms.
- The freshmen and sophomore students has a separate building from the upper classmen. The building was assigned a principal.
- The office secretary participates in monitoring halls throughout the day and during breaks to make sure students were where they were supposed to be.

# Noticeable Differences

- Limited use of textbooks.
- Limited use of technology.
- Lesson plans.

# Pierce Street Elementary High Performing School Visit



East Amory Elementary  
Amory School District

# East Amory Elementary

- East Amory's QDI went from 155 to 186 in one year.
- East Amory boasts the highest 3<sup>rd</sup> grade scores in the state of MS.

# East Amory Elementary

Pierce

56% ED

406 students

East Amory

67%ED

523 students

# Focus on Data

- Students take common assessments every 4 ½ weeks.
- Teachers analyze common assessment scores by completing a reflection guide.
- Principal keeps “Data Boards.”
- Multiple sources of data (Star reader, Classworks, Dibels, weekly tests, Study Island)

# Tutorials

- Hire retired teachers
- Assistants tutor “bubble students”
- Activity teachers tutor when not teaching
- Teachers tutor during recess and activity
- Tutorial through Classworks and Study Island. (Classworks provides universal screener, progress monitoring, enrichment, and intervention).



# Thumbs Up

- PLC is evident in the work and structure of classes (i.e. flexible grouping, skills packets, common assessments, etc.)
- Guided reading
- Data driven instruction
- Vocabulary Word Walls
- PET
- Weekly assessments are rigorous throughout the year. They must be at least 80% DOK2.

# Noticeable Differences

- Very little arts integration.
- Interventionist is only part-time.

# Thomas Street Elementary High Performing & Star Schools Visits



Anniston Avenue & Bayou View Elementary  
Schools  
Gulfport School District

# Star Schools of Gulfport

- Anniston Avenue Elementary School
  - 221 QDI
  - Star School
  - 53% Poverty Rate
- Bayou View Elementary School
  - 238 QDI
  - Star School
  - 26% Poverty Rate

# Thumbs Up

- All teachers give 20 question mixed-practice tests written by district teachers every 4 ½ weeks in English/Language Arts and Math.
- Twenty-question mixed-skills assessments written by teachers at the schools are given weekly in English/Language Arts and Math. Assessment data is widely studied and used.
- Project Read is used district-wide to teach grammar and language arts.

# Noticeable Differences

- The district does not adopt or buy textbooks because of financial costs. Teachers use the district curriculum and pacing guides to guide their teaching. They pull from different resources.
- All schools had after-school programs.
- All schools used Accelerated Reading and Math.

# HSAA Star School Visit



West Lauderdale High School  
Laudersdale School District

# West Lauderdale High School

- 592 students (79% Caucasian, 19% African-American, 1% Hispanic, 0.6% Asian)
- 4 x 4 block schedule
- 25-30:1 Student:teacher ratio
- 6 Advanced Placement course offerings (AP English IV, AP U.S. History, AP Biology, AP Calculus, AP Chemistry, AP Physics)
- Dual enrollment opportunities for juniors and seniors at Meridian Community College



# Thumbs Up

- Grades 5-12 are on the same campus, and schools collaborate concerning academic needs of students.
- Remediation and interventions are offered to all students during the activity period. SATP teachers planning is scheduled during this time.
- One teacher instructs SATP classes per content area—except English, where there are two teachers.

# Noticeable Differences

- Written curriculum is provided for grades one through eight in the areas of language arts and math.
- Experienced teachers—not first year--teach SATP classes.
- Athletic coaches are not in SATP classes.

# Tupelo High School Star School Visit



Northwest Rankin High School  
Brandon High School  
Florence High School  
Rankin County Schools

Brandon High School  
Florence High School  
Northwest Rankin High School

- Enrollment
  - Brandon 1466
  - Florence 685
  - Northwest 1615
- All schools are star schools.
- All schools are on block schedule.

# Thumbs Up

- Phasing out AP classes to offer more dual enrollment.
- Counselors were responsible for roughly 400 kids.
- Zero period used for remediation.

# Noticeable Differences

- Inclusion was not offered for all students. Inclusion was only for students receiving the Mississippi Occupational Diploma.
- Lack of Technology-They are planning to visit us now.