

## December 2023 Learning Division Board Narrative

The updates the Learning Division has to share with you include:

- Cox Partnership
- Curriculum Conversations with Dr. Carson
- Virtual & Enrollment Update
- PowerSchool Implementation Update
- OIC - Academies Update
- Special Services
- Student Services
- Learning Division Priorities 2022-23
- [Building Narratives](#)

### Cox Partnership

We continue to meet with Cox partners to work on our Health Pavilion and to make sure that we are aligned in regard to the larger Cox partnerships. We are narrowing our industry recognized credentials. Our instructor will need to do some training, and we will partner with Cox to bring in other instructors to help with the credentialing. The other instructors will be volunteering their time as Cox employees. We will pass on to you more information as we know it. Our Health Academy has very strong student interest.

### Curriculum Conversations with Dr. Carson

The Learning Division held their first Curriculum Conversation with the public. It was a good evening. Please go to the [website](#) and look at all of the resources for our parents and community.

Meetings in the future will be around some of the following topics:

1. "New" Math
2. Standards Based Grading - Grade Card Interpretation
3. Prof. Scales - Parent lens
4. Intervention and Grade Recovery
  - a. Test retakes, multiple opportunities to demonstrate learning, etc.
5. Cursive - Pledge - Social Studies
6. Portrait of a Graduate work
7. How Ozark teaches emotional regulation and socialization between peers
8. Accessing student info in Powerschool

### Virtual & Enrollment Update

The last Wednesday in September is our fall 'count date' for enrollment. Grade levels reported are K-12 and also PK (only the Ada PK program is reported not the entire Tiger Paw enrollment)

December K-12 Enrollment. Fifth and sixth grade continue to be our largest grade levels.

12/12/2023										
Grade	East	North	South	West	OVS	Middle	Jr High	High	District	TP
K	108	91	88	108					407	12
1	100	92	106	137					435	
2	126	113	114	128					481	
3	116	112	114	120					462	
4	106	106	106	122					440	
5						440			440	
6						466			466	
7							505		505	
8							489		489	
9								469	469	
10								461	461	
11								443	443	
12								434	434	
<b>Total</b>	556	514	528	615		906	994	1807	<b>5920</b>	

### PowerSchool Implementation Update

PowerSchool implementation is on track which means it goes slow and then fast and then slow again. Lisa Neiman and Lacie Hart are working with a statewide user group of districts who currently use PowerSchool. Scheduling training sessions will begin in December and January for our secondary counselors. The next few weeks will be a huge lift in regard to setting up second semester to prepare for the next school year.

Lisa Neiman and Lacie Hart are also working with the implementation team in regards to Unified Insights. This program will replace PowerBI for the Learning Division and will provide a robust data center for the District.

### OIC - Academies Update

Academies are finishing the semester on a strong note. 38 Health Science Academy students attended the OTC Health Sciences day on December 1. They were able to tour the OTC Health

Sciences facilities, meet faculty, and take part in hands-on activities. In addition, Industrial & Engineering Technology students attended a presentation from Elias Snider, a graduate researcher from Missouri S&T. He shared information about college, engineering, research, & the university.

The OIC also hosted the Southwest Missouri Council of Career and Technical Administrators (MCCTA) for their winter meeting. Mrs. Jennings is part of this group, and its members are integral in the support of Career and Technical Education in Missouri. They discussed current issues affecting CTE, enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by Chef Watts and the OHS Culinary students, and toured the building.

In CTE program news, we are getting our state application ready to add a Health Sciences CTE program. We have been discussing an appropriate program of study, as well as possible Industry Recognized Credentials for this program. We will submit this application to the state in January so we can provide a high quality Health Sciences CTE program to help our students get a head start on their future careers.

### **Special Services**

During the past month we have been able to fill two open positions, North Elementary Special Education Teacher and Paraprofessional at Junior High, which have provided great support to the buildings and our special education students. The Junior High and High School Process Coordinators completed Transition Training services with DESE. In addition, the Junior High and High School Process Coordinators have started working on our 8th grade students transitioning to high school in regards to schedules and classroom support. Our Functional Skills Teachers have been working collaboratively in completing the MAP-A assessments for the fall assessment period and the special education staff has worked alongside teachers to ensure the NWEA assessments have been completed.

### **Student Services**

Our counseling team have been working with the new PowerSchool program to utilize the scheduling component for the 2024-25 school year. Counselors also met with Christian County Children's Services to discuss how we can best work to help our families in a more proactive approach. We have a new EL teacher who will help with the caseloads at the junior high and middle school. This additional support for our EL students is invaluable as they work on their skills in every academic area.

### **Learning Division Priorities**

Learning Division Priorities - 2021 -2022 - 2023 - 2024

1. PLC - Solidify Tier 1 Core Curriculum / Instructional Cycle
  - Rtl Implementation with priority standards
  - Priority Standards defined with proficiency scale

- Priority Standards Work throughout assessments, interventions, & data
  - Time built into day for tier 2 throughout district
  - Build academic behaviors & POG integration into k - 12 pyramid
  - Supplement Tiers 3 & 4 with Structured Literacy as an intervention into SPED, interventionists, and in RR teachers
2. Academy work and implementation
    - Year 1 & 2 courses complete with curriculum
    - Create foundational blocks in curriculum for year 2 & 3
    - Integrate POG & Clifton StrengthsFinder
  3. Community partnerships
    - Externships & Community Involvement
    - Continue to develop partnerships
    - Connections with parents & all constituency levels

#### Training:

1. Academic Behaviors - POG in conjunction with SEL
2. StrengthsFinder
  - a. Leadership Learning Division - strengths-based approach to leadership
  - b. Mentorship (8 - 12) with StrengthsFinder
3. Externships expansion
4. Academic vocabulary - NF Writing
5. Intervention work
6. Formative Assessment Work - Assessment Literacy
  - a. Proficiency Scales as a part of the assessment work
7. Solid Core Instructional Design

#### Building Narratives:

##### Tiger Paw -

Tiger Paw Early Childhood Center hosted our Winter Wonderland on December 5th. This is a school-wide, evening event that is planned by our Parents as Teachers Parent Educators. The event was a huge success and was the largest ever in Tiger Paw's history. One hundred sixty families attended with more than 650 people total in the building.

Our Parents as Teachers program was highlighted by the district's Communication Department. Here is a link to the video if you have not seen it yet:

<https://www.wevideo.com/view/3264389046>

Tiger Paw teachers met with Cassie Erkens before Thanksgiving Break and worked on creating common formative assessments. Our Response to Intervention team met with teachers to monitor progress on current interventions in place and discuss new students. This week multiple teacher teams noted that many students were showing progress due to these interventions.

### **Elementary Buildings**

Teachers are hard at work assessing students as we wrap up the end of the 2nd quarter and 1st semester. Kindergarten took the NWEA assessment for the first time and did an outstanding job navigating through it. The coaches, interventionists and teachers prepared them well!

### **East Elementary**

Setting goals has been a focus for East this year. Grade-levels created SMART goals and are gathering 2nd quarter data to measure progress toward meeting these goals. Our kindergarteners have already met one goal and are working on a new one!

We are also celebrating amazing progress toward meeting individual and classroom goals with shoutouts on announcements and ringing of a special 'goal' bell.

Our 4th grade Tiger Team student council led a toy drive to collect toys for Santa's Toy Drive. There was a friendly competition between grade levels to see which could collect the most toys. 1st grade won and earned extra P.E. time

East second graders performed their holiday program "Jingle Bell Jukebox" last week in the high school auditorium. They prepared all semester long for this show and did an outstanding job! Big thanks to Mrs. Worley, East music teacher and all the related arts teachers for working hard to put on this program. These are the experiences that our students and families will remember for years to come!

### **South Elementary**

Our first music program of the year will be on December 13th. South's second-grade students will be performing the program, An Old-Fashioned Christmas. This is a program that celebrates all things Christmas through music and narration. Mrs. Kaufman and our students have worked hard to have a successful production.

With the end of the quarter quickly approaching our teachers are concentrating on completing end of quarter assessments. This gives us data to use to better serve our students by making revisions to our intervention groups.

Countdown to Christmas has begun at South. Faculty and staff enjoyed our Christmas gathering this week. It was really exciting to bring people together and celebrate Christmas with our school family. South Elementary also shared random acts of kindness. Students spent time making cards for residents. They also collected a lot of socks for those in need.

## North Elementary

As 1st semester comes to an end, we are celebrating every day with our 12 days of Christmas spirit calendar. These spirit days will culminate at our 2nd quarter Student of the Month Assembly - Reindeer Games Edition. NETO (North Elementary Teacher Organization) carried on the tradition of caroling in our North neighborhoods which was a huge success! Admin is hosting a “warm up with breakfast” event on the morning of 12/11 to celebrate the holidays with our faculty, staff, and bus drivers.

As we look to wrap up the quarter, we have so much to celebrate in progress toward individual, grade level, and building goals. The end of a semester is a time we are intentional about reflecting on our data and ensuring that we continue to tailor our academic interventions to meet all of our student’s needs.

## West Elementary

There are many events happening in the months of November and December that we are excited to share with the community! West fourth graders performed their “Kidflix” program on November 30th at the high school. It was a fantastic performance with singing and choreography conducted by Mrs. Doherty. We are looking forward to the second grade production on December 11th as well as a special appearance on the square for Friday Night Lights on December 15th.

West loves to give back during this time of year. We were so thankful for Sunrise Baptist and The Springs church for donating Thanksgiving baskets for families in need. PTA is busy with the Christmas Wishing Tree to help those who need some extra Christmas cheer this year. West is also having a Penny War to raise money for Ozark Cares Network.

Our teachers have been participating in an action-oriented professional development called LIFT Groups this semester and have set professional goals with the ultimate outcome of lifting student achievement by strengthening instructional practice. They are conducting peer observations as part of this experience and have been sharing the great learning from those interactions with other teachers they do not typically work with on a regular basis.

## Middle School

As we wrap up the first semester and reflect on the work and progress we have made at OMS this year, I couldn't be more proud of the work of our staff. Our teachers have been hard at work creating engaging lessons and introduction hooks for the beginning of our units. [Here](#) is just a small sample of some of the creative methods our teachers are using to not only entertain our students, but also provide strong instruction.



We have also been celebrating the 12 days of Christmas with our students and staff, and we are thrilled with the participation. This year our STUCCO created the template, and they did a fantastic job. Our last Student of the Month Assembly will be held on Wednesday, December 20th. This will be our annual winter celebration, and we look forward to highlighting our students and staff.

Finally, if you have not had a chance to visit the Middle School lately, our construction is nearing completion. We have developed a plan to use our space to provide the greatest educational experience for our students. Our offices will be moving in when we return from Christmas Break, and look forward to settling into our new home.

### Junior High School

It's hard to imagine that we're just a few days away from the end of the first semester and what an incredible semester it has been. Our staff's intentional work through the PLC process combined with their focus on priority standards and use of proficiency scales has helped us better identify what a student has learned and when they've not learned it yet. Their hard work and progress was validated and celebrated when Cassandra Erkens with Solution Tree performed a site visit and shared her feedback. We're thankful for her time and work as it has helped guide us on our journey to implementation of student goal setting.

With it being the beginning of the month we held our monthly Spirit Assembly. This month we held our 2nd Annual Reindeer Games which consisted of several student games and ended with one teacher-led race. While Team Oceania won the OJH Reindeer Games, the real winners

of the Spirit Assembly are the children who will benefit from the Chevy Suburban full of toys that our JH students collected and donated to Children's Miracle Network. If you have some time I'd encourage you to check out our OJH Facebook page and the post from our 12/6/2023 Spirit Assembly.

We have a lot of positive momentum going these last few days of the semester and we look forward to carrying that into 2024.

### **High School**

It's hard to believe the end of 1st semester is right around the corner. Our counselors have been gearing up for 2nd semester schedule changes and trying to work through the final details for our upcoming ICAPS. Our students have been working very hard to prepare for upcoming finals and finish getting caught up in their classes.

In the last couple of weeks, our theater department put on a great musical production of Grease. We also sent E-Sports and Band students to state. E-sports took 2nd and out of 30 students auditioning for band, 6 placed with honors. This morning we celebrated our cheerleaders as they get ready to head off to their state competition this weekend. We also hosted a Battle of the Bands competition that was a great success. Finally, our very own Yancey Little is being inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame! We are so excited for him.

### **Finley River School**

Finley students have been hard at work gearing for the semesters' end tracking their credits and work goals. Our final Reward Day is the annual Christmas Feast that Mrs. Middleton's FACS class is orchestrating and preparing traditional foods to share. Santa will make a visit sharing a gift for each student donated by an anonymous community member! We are finishing up processing some applications and anticipate adding as many as 10 students at semester. We have only one semester grad, but with a few students moving out of Ozark early in the Fall our cohort decreased allowing for more space now. We look forward to welcoming these new students.

Community Service will be offered next term and our team has been planning activities throughout Ozark where Finley students can be of benefit. This class is always a positive experience for students and certainly will be a part of a successful semester.