IZone 2.0
Memphis-Shelby County Schools

The TURNAROUND *Digest Review*

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From the Desk of Dr. Rogers...

A transformational leader has the capacity to be charismatic, assertive, and outgoing when the need arises and dynamic or relationship-oriented when necessary. Adept at the varied context in which one finds themselves in positions of power, the main challenge with transformational leadership is knowing why and when to deploy one's many available personal attributes such as demonstrating confidence to galvanize change vs. building trust with employees who need support.

Winning With Relentless Collective Efficacy!
Dr. Thomas D. Rogers

IN THE *Spotlight:*

LaRose Elementary School's S.E.E.D. WKNO Recognition Award Video

Congratulations are in order for Principal Staci Hendrix and the faculty & staff at LaRose Elementary School!

These fine educators recently recorded a video highlighting the great things going on at LaRose as a part of the MSCS-S.E.E.D WKNO Recognition Award Program.

Click the logo to the right to view the video!

Leadership - Pamela Harris-Giles, IZone 2.0 Director

With only three weeks left before students take the TCAP/EOC assessments, everyone is laser-focused on making the most of these remaining days until test time. As we look toward the finish line for this year, we want to make sure we can quickly pivot after test time and start planning for the next academic school year.

As you are aware, one of the many changes for the 2023-2024 school year includes the implementation of the newly revised TN Academics Mathematics Standards. In the coming months, the IZone Centralized Support Team will provide various professional development sessions for teachers and school leaders to equip them with knowledge and understanding of the newly revised mathematics standards. Please look forward to upcoming information with session dates and times. In the interim, it is highly suggested that you view the Tennessee Department of Education's *Best for All Central* website which provides many useful resources to build an understanding of the newly revised mathematics standards. Click the image to the right to view the site.

Header Photo: Principal Hendrix (3rd from left), members of the LaRose admin team, Ms. "Teacher Teacher", and Dr. J.B. Blocker (S.E.E.D.)

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The Focal Point...

K-8 Literacy - Dr. Matara Harris

Greetings Great Educators and Leaders,

Spring Break is behind us, and it is time to make sure our students are "TNReady!"

Whether you're a new teacher or a veteran, "preparation" for these tests is a yearlong event. . .basically, the processes you carry out daily — teaching and learning! Remember, test prep is a PROCESS, not an EVENT! By focusing on personalizing instruction, you can promote deeper learning. So with an optimistic mindset, we suggest the following tips for preparing students for standardized tests:

1. Use engaging lessons and activities to review.
2. Identify any "gaps" using real-time student data.
3. Use educational technology in a targeted way for standardized test prep.
4. Utilize sample tests for familiarity.
5. Practice a positive mindset.

For more information about test-prep strategies and a bank of activities, click the link below:

5 Tips for Standardized Test Prep for New Teachers

K-8 Science - Mrs. Angela Rowe-Jackson

M.A.D. Scientists at Work
Masters of 5E with ***Ambition*** and ***Determination***

Getting Ready for TNReady

Tip #3 - Don't Obsess

"Obsession is the single most wasteful human activity because with an obsession, you keep coming back and back and back to the same question and never get an answer."
-Norman Mailer

Think about the quote above...in what ways does this quote resonate with you? For starters, standardized tests might sometimes feel all-encompassing, but they're not. There are lots of other amazing things you get to cover with your students, so don't just focus on test materials at the cost of everything else.

Try interdisciplinary teaching strategies that can help you cover necessary material from different disciplines! Plus, they encourage students to think critically, which is an essential requirement for every standardized test.

Here's an article that has some great ideas for interdisciplinary lessons:
10 Interdisciplinary Teaching Activities and Examples

Further reading:
Let's Dump the Obsession With Standardized Testing

"Together we are *ONE* in *SCIENCE*!"

K-8 Math - Mr. Romond Arnold

Use High-Impact Teaching Strategies

Hello IZone 2.0 Mathematicians,

Dr. John Hattie is a highly respected and renowned education researcher. Through more than 800 studies, he has discovered 250+ factors that impact student achievement. His research shows that when a teacher uses high-impact teaching strategies, students can obtain up to two years of academic growth within a single academic year. Some of the top teaching strategies include:

- Teacher clarity
- Structuring lessons
- Setting goals
- Providing effective feedback
- Questioning
- Explicit, direct classroom instruction
- Multiple exposures

By incorporating high-impact teaching strategies, as outlined by John Hattie, you can have a greater impact on reaching all students in math. Listed below are some characteristics of an equitable math classroom:

- Teachers get to know students through learner-based interest surveys. Through the surveys, students can explain what they like about math and what they need from their teachers to be successful in math.
- Students write narratives about their experiences with math to help identify their personal attitudes toward math (how they feel about themselves as math learners, what they think math is about, and whether or not they like math).
- Teachers focus on how students solve problems and their solution strategies instead of only focusing on finding the right answer. Teachers allow students to show their thinking in a variety of ways (i.e., conversations and group work).
- Instructional time (when the teacher is speaking about the ideas being taught) happens after students engage with their learning. This communicates to the students that they can solve the problem and that their ideas are both important and valuable.

Click the blue and white image above to learn more about high-impact strategies!

High School - Dr. William Kinard

As IZone 2.0 educators, we all know that student engagement is a primary expectation. Expeditionary Learning outlines "Rank, Talk, Write" as a reading, discussion, and writing protocol that allows students to judge the topics they are reading, speaking about, and writing about. Students will use this protocol to actively review their notes about new concepts and analyze/discuss the importance of critical ideas they identify.

Teachers should have whiteboard/chart paper/poster paper, writing utensils, and note papers or the text to complete the activity. The steps are as follows:

Students . . .
1. Independently write a summary sentence for each key idea or concept during or after reading.
2. Rank the importance of the statements using numbers.
3. Share with group members and explain your ranking.
4. Choose the best summary sentences.
5. The scribe will write the best summary statement for the assigned concept.
6. The small groups share out with the whole group.

"Rank, Talk, Write" is another protocol to ensure that students can master a few reasonable English/Language Arts practices that can be helpful throughout the school year and their lives. It can be useful across other disciplines as well.