IZone 2.0
Memphis-Shelby County Schools

The TURNAROUND *Digest Review*

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From the Desk of Dr. Rogers...

Sharing Your Light

The starting point to drive away darkness is a beacon of light. The human light is what continues to shine brightly in our schools for the sole purpose of leading, guiding, and educating our children. As I visited schools this week for TCAP/EPOC, it was obvious that we all had changed and/or recharged our personal batteries. The radiance of light in every person whom I encountered energized our students to do their very best. Yes, I saw the the lights in full illumination!

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

TEAM #2 Artifacts Due: May 19
Please contact your ILD for details and assistance.

IN THE *Spotlight:*

Students from Three IZone 2.0 Middle Schools Among the Top 14 in the Shelby County District Attorney's "Do the Write Thing" Challenge

The stakeholders of American Way Middle, Craigmont Middle, and Grandview Heights Middle are beaming with pride as District Attorney (DA) Steve Mulroy's office has announced the top 14 scholars in this year's "Do the Write Thing" Challenge! Over the last 15 years, the DA's office has worked in collaboration with the National Campaign to Stop Violence to present this challenge as a means of encouraging our youth to raise their voices against the cycles of violence that result in broken homes, schools, and communities. Out of the over 1,000+ entries submitted, the Top 14 will be honored during a recognition banquet on April 25 and two winners will be selected to represent the City of Memphis for a conference in Washington, D.C. Congratulations to Principals Larissa Jackson (American Way), Lakeisha Haywood (Craigmont), and Deartis Barber (Grandview Heights) on their students' great achievements!

Leadership - Director Alisha Kiner, Zone 11 ILD

Throughout history the eagle was seen as a symbol for great strength, leadership and vision, and has been used as a 'banner' by many of the great empires.

Recently, I ran across a description of the eagle that exemplifies why it is recognized for its tremendous example of leadership:"The only bird that dares to peck the eagle is the crow. It sits on its back and bites its neck. However, the eagle doesn't respond, nor does it fight with the crow: it doesn't waste any time or effort on it, it just opens its wings and begins to climb up to the highest place in the sky. The higher the flight, the harder it is for the crow to breathe and then the crow falls due to lack of oxygen."

Lead like an eagle.

Video: The Eagle Mentality

Header Photo: Booker T. Washington 6-12's Varsity Boys Basketball Team

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The Focal Point...

K-8 Literacy - Dr. Matara Harris

Greetings Educational Leaders,

The week of testing is finally here! All students, teachers, parents, leaders, and educational partners have been preparing our students to achieve and succeed on the test! Still, there are human factors such as anxiety and stress that can affect our students' ability to do their best. However, these brain-based strategies below can help reduce test stress.

- Tell a joke or personal anecdote about your own exam experiences.
- Remind students to recall their common mistakes and how they correct them, so they don't intrude during the test.
- Visualize their own successful performance. Just as visualizing a tennis swing or soccer kick activates critical motor brain networks, their visualizations will increase confidence, reduce stress, and preheat the memory circuits they'll want to access.
- Reinforce test-taking tips you've previously shared with students. For example, tell students if they don't know an answer, go to the next question; they may find information that triggers related memories in other questions.

Click on the link below for more insights into these helpful tips, and have a relaxing, stress-free testing week!

Brain-Based Strategies to Reduce Test Stress | Edutopia

K-8 Science - Mrs. Angela Rowe-Jackson

M.A.D. Scientists at Work

Masters of 5E with ***Ambition*** and ***Determination***

Tip #7 Connect with Families- Parent Involvement

Family involvement is essential to students staying committed to their education - not only throughout the school year, but throughout the entire course of schooling.

One way to help students ease testing anxieties is to let them know assessments are meant to be a review of content learned all year. It's also important to communicate with parents that the state test is another opportunity to get a more complete picture of their child's progress with important grade-level skills, enabling them to support what's happening in the classroom. In addition to class grades, the results of the state tests and the school's report card are important pieces of the bigger picture. By putting these pieces of information together, parents will know where their child is doing well and where additional support is needed. They can also be proactive in partnering with teachers to address those areas.

One way to help parents see the bigger picture is by sending home practice test questions that will show how their child will be tested. Another way is to invite parents out to science and math night activities that will give families a chance to see what their kids are learning. These types of activities can also help them take an active role in supporting students' learning at home. Students enjoy involving their families by showing off their work and getting to play the "teacher" while sharing interesting concepts. Family science night is also a great time to reinforce concepts that you've just introduced in the classroom. Click the link below to learn more.

Tips for Hosting an Exciting Family Science Night at School | Chloe Campbell Education

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Created by: Angela Rowe-Jackson and Precious Hallman

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

K-8 Math - Mr. Romond Arnold

Math Standards

Hello IZone 2.0 Mathematicians,

What would we like to see in all math classrooms? Our focus has shifted from memorizing to understanding and from calculating to applying. With that being said, we recognized that some instructional strategies are better suited to meet these goals. As we observe math classrooms, we look for evidence that teaching is more than delivering a textbook lesson. We look at teacher and student interactions. We also look for the real-time adjustments made by the teacher to keep learning progressing and, most importantly, the ways in which the teacher brings mathematical concepts to life through discourse, visuals, and intentional connections to previous learning. Specifically, over the next few weeks, we will identify a few key strategies that should occur in an effective math classroom.

Look for a clear focus on math standards.

Without a clear focus on the standard being addressed, teaching becomes irrelevant. Teachers and students should be aware of the standard(s) that drive the lesson, as well as the connection to standards addressed in previous grades.

- What standard is being addressed?
- Is the standard appropriate for the grade level and conveyed in student-friendly terms?
- Do the activities and teaching strategies address the depth of the standard(s)?
- Is there evidence of both process and content standard(s) being addressed?
- What connections are being made to standard(s) addressed in previous grades?

High School - Dr. William Kinard

Playing Games to Enhance Classroom Learning

Research shows that using games in teaching can help increase student participation, foster social and emotional learning, and motivate students to take risks, according to Hoa P. Nguyen in their 2021 Edutopia article about game-based learning. The article highlights how biology students learn about the importance of biodiversity and endangered species with the March Mammal Madness game created by a teacher in Atherton, California. The teacher used a tournament style format to deepen student understanding of global ecosystems while building community in the classroom. The entire phenomenon can be found in the following article: How to Use Gameplay to Enhance Classroom Learning | Edutopia

This creativity isn't just limited to the science classroom. Recently, all English I teachers in the IZone were given a Jeopardy style game created by Coach Grandberry to give students that last push before the EOC. Not only did it help students to review skills taught during the school year, but students enjoyed the experience. The link to the game can be accessed, copied, and manipulated to address a variety of content areas. Whenever student engagement and instruction are combined, it's considered a win in the IZone.

"Out Front Where We Belong!"

Summer Learning Institute

July 24-26, 2023

Early Return Days

July 27-28, 2023