COUNTDOWN TO TCAP!

52

Instructional days left before the TCAP begins on April 15th!



THE TURNAROUND DIGEST eview

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DR. THOMAS D. ROGERS, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT - 2022-2023 BROAD FELLOW-YALE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT



Ms. Collette V. Smith (center, seated) visited Trezevant HS to offer an inspiring message to a select group of scholars. Ms. Smith is the first black female coach in NFL history, the first female coach in NFL history, the first female coach in NY Jets history, and the founder of Believe N You, Inc.



In turnaround schools, the pursuit of excellence often hinges on that crucial extra degree of effort and commitment. Much like water transforming into steam at 212 degrees Fahrenheit, a small increase in temperature can lead to a significant transformation. Similarly, going beyond what is expected can be the catalyst for positive change in turnaround schools facing challenges. That extra degree of dedication from teachers, students, and administrators can create an environment where learning flourishes, morale improves, and ultimately, the school turns around, offering a brighter future for its community.

The Cost of Winning...O.R.A. + the extra degree



LEADERSHIP

DR. JANICE TANKSON, ZONE 12 ILD

Avoiding Distractions and Derailments

School leaders can be pulled in many directions, from walking on the school campus in the morning to dragging themselves to the car at the end of the day. Many create daily, elaborate "To-Do" lists of what they want to accomplish but fail miserably due to distractions and derailments. We must be careful because distractions can lead us down rabbit holes that are hard to escape. I want to offer suggestions for avoiding distractions and derailments in your daily leadership life. In the article, *5 Ways to Protect Your Time as a School Leader*, Jessica Cabeen provides helpful strategies that will allow you to reach your goals while maintaining a positive culture. The strategies are as follows:

- 1. Establish Boundaries
- 2. Prioritize and Plan
- 3. Delegate Effectively
- 4. Use Time Management Strategies
- 5. Reflect and Adjust Regularly

For more details on these strategies, please click the link below to read the article: **Edutopia Article: 5 Ways to Protect Your Time as a School Leader**



IN THE SPOTLIGHT DR. TONYA DIGGS, OAKHAVEN MS



We want to send a hearty "CONGRATULATIONS" to Principal Tonya Diggs of Oakhaven Middle School for recently earning her Ed.D. in Instructional Leadership from Union University. Over the course of her career, Dr. Diggs has worked in both the middle and high school sectors, serving as a teacher, assistant principal, and vice principal. Way to go, Dr. Diggs!!

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K-8 ELA

DR. MATARA <u>HARRIS, MANAGER</u>

Submitted By: Carrie Mcghee-Runnels, ELA Coach

Greetings Great Educators,

A good plan is like a road map. It shows the final destination and usually the best way to get there. - Donald Judd

Planning is a process that supports the consistent, high-quality implementation of core content curricula while allowing general education teachers and instructional specialists the opportunity to coordinate and refine their plans for instruction and assessment.

During planning, always remember the main four driving questions:

1. What do we want all students to know and be able to do?

- 2. How will we know if students learned it?
- 3. How will we respond if students do not learn?
- 4. How will we extend the learning?

The following pre-work below, to be completed before lesson implementation, supports a planning process that is conducive to positive student outcomes:

- Complete the PLC Planning Protocol document with all questions answered.
- Read and annotate all lesson resources.
- Complete an exemplar for the lesson to navigate through the lesson and remove possible student misconceptions effectively.

As we move into testing season, remember a clear planning process creates greater opportunities for student achievement.

K-8 MATH

ROMOND ARNOLD, MANAGER

Hello IZone 3.0 Mathematicians,

As a K-8 Instructional Mathematics Support Manager in an urban school district, the pursuit of student engagement and achievement in mathematics is at the core of our mission. This article aims to provide practical insights and specific small group strategies that educators can implement in K-8 classrooms to enhance student understanding of geometry, measurement, and fractions.

1. Contextualized Learning:

Anchor geometry, measurement, and fractions concepts in real-world contexts relevant to urban students. Create small group activities that connect mathematical principles to their everyday experiences, making the learning process more relatable and engaging. Facilitate focused discussions within small groups, encouraging students to articulate their understanding of key concepts. This verbal interaction helps solidify their knowledge and builds confidence in expressing ideas.

2. Manipulative-rich Environment:

Introduce a variety of manipulatives for hands-on exploration. For geometry, provide shapes and models; for measurement, offer rulers and measuring tools; and for fractions, use fraction bars and circles. These tangible resources enhance understanding and make abstract concepts more concrete.

3. Cross-Curricular Connections:

Integrate geometry, measurement, and fractions into other subjects. Collaborate with teachers across disciplines to create interdisciplinary projects, emphasizing the interconnectedness of mathematics with subjects like science, art, and social studies. Design tasks or challenges that require critical thinking and application of tested concepts. This can mimic the problem-solving skills needed in standardized tests, preparing students for various question types.

4. Real-World Problem-Solving:

Engage students in solving real-world problems that require the application of geometry, measurement, and fractions. Present real-world scenarios that mirror the application of academic content. This helps students see the practical relevance of their learning, making it more likely to stick during testing.

5. Visual Representations:

Utilize visual representations to enhance understanding. Incorporate diagrams, charts, and graphs to illustrate geometric concepts, measurement comparisons, and fractional relationships. Provide visual aids and graphic organizers to help students organize information. Visualizing concepts can enhance memory retention, aid in recalling information during the test, cater to diverse learning styles, and promote deeper comprehension.

By incorporating these small group strategies into K-8 mathematics classrooms, teachers can create an environment that enhances student engagement and boosts achievement in geometry, measurement, and fractions. The pursuit of mathematical excellence becomes an exciting journey, fostering a love for learning that extends beyond the classroom.

<u>Click here for visual resources!</u>

"Your school is my school. My school is your school. Your kids are my kids. My kids are your kids."

K-8 SCIENCE

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

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ANGELA ROWE-JACKSON, MANAGER

Why Showcase Student Work?

Last week, we shared how to make it hotter for HOT Learning. One way that I shared was to display student work from their explorations.

Displaying student work can be one of the most rewarding experiences as a teacher. Not only do you get to share your students' hard work with a wider audience (parents included!), but the recognition that comes from spotlighting burgeoning talents and creativity can inspire students to achieve greater.

Integrating student work into your teaching has a couple of profound practical benefits.

Children will better understand the work we're asking them to do if they see examples of that work created by their classmates. Displaying and integrating students' work into lessons is also a powerful way to build motivation.

Sometimes, finding a spot for student work is tricky or time-consuming. Here are a few ways you can display student work.

- Post them with clothespins •
- Hang colorful clipboards
- Re-purpose plastic pocket dividers Display student work on The Fridge
- Try a virtual bulletin board to display student work
- Clip them to the blinds
- Set up a ClassDojo portfolio

Resource: 18 Clever Ways to Display Student Work in the Classroom and Online

Together, We are ONE in SCIENCE!

HIGH SCHOOL

DR. WILLIAM KINARD III, MANAGER

Submitted by: Dr. Renata Fullilove, Math Coach

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once stated, "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically..." Thinking is a highly important skill, but oftentimes we (teachers) spend more time telling our students what to do as opposed to having our students think, discover, and make meaningful connections. If we want our students to become thinkers and not just doers, we must provide opportunities for them to think.

Inquiry-based instruction is a student-centered approach where the teacher guides the students through questions posed, methods designed, and data interpreted by the students. Inquiry-based instruction allows students to think about the content so that they will remember it better in the long run. Having students remember what we tell/show them keeps them at the bottom of Bloom's Taxonomy. Having our students engage in thinking and inquiry is how we move them up the hierarchy. Check out the Edutopia article below to learn more about promoting thinking and active learning.

"Your school is my school. My school is your school. Your kids are my kids. My kids are your kids."



An Inquiry Approach



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Edutopia Article: Teaching Through Asking Rather Than Telling

THE IZONE 3.0 COMMITMENTS

Your school is my school.

My school is your school.

Your kids are my kids.

My kids are your kids.

