

SAVE THE DATE

Summer
Learning
Institute

&
Early Return
Week

July 22-26, 2024

Never
STOP
Learning!





THE TURNAROUND DIGEST

Review

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 33 • APRIL 26, 2024

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



Principal Deartis Barber, Dr. Thomas D. Rogers, Board Member Stephanie Love, and Dr. Terrence Brittenum join Superintendent Feagins during her VIP Tour at Grandview Heights Middle School.

FROM THE DESK OF

Dr. Thomas D. Rogers

It's Your Winning Season! (Part II)

Winners in turnaround schools embody resilience, innovation, and unwavering determination. They view challenges as opportunities for growth rather than setbacks, seeing each obstacle as a chance to refine their strategies and make meaningful change. These individuals possess a deep belief in the potential of every student and refuse to accept mediocrity. They inspire and empower others through their contagious optimism and ability to foster a culture of collaboration and accountability. Winners in turnaround schools understand that success is not achieved overnight but through consistent effort, adaptability, and a relentless focus on student achievement. Their mindset is characterized by a commitment to excellence and a willingness to go above and beyond to ensure every student reaches their full potential.

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



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



CONNECT WITH US!



LEADERSHIP

DR. TERENCE BRITTENUM, ZONE 10 ILD

Five Steps in Your Path to Becoming a Successful Principal

Being a successful school leader requires the ability to effectively communicate, demonstrate competency, build positive relationships with stakeholders, and facilitate an environment of trust and equity. Additionally, it is important to motivate and inspire staff to believe in themselves, their colleagues, their students, and their ability to achieve established school goals. Please click the link below to learn more about ways to become a more effective school leader!



Edutopia Article: [5 Steps in Your Path to Becoming a Successful Principal](#)

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

HAVENVIEW TIGERS EXCEL IN LOCAL RUSSIAN OLYMPIADA



Havenview scholars and educators during the 2024 Olympiada Competition at Rhodes College

Congratulations to the Russian-speaking scholars of Havenview Middle School for their achievements during the annual Olympiada Competition at Rhodes College!

Kudos to Mrs. Ludmilla Mitchell, Principal Darla Young-Berry, and the Havenview Family!

Check out this list of award-winning Tigers:

Gold Medals

Arteria Edwards
Camille Wilson
Dafne Saavedra
Alana Cole

Silver Medals

Cameron Wilson
Amelia Holt

Honorable Mentions

Elizabeth Predmore
Kyron Dowl



Source: [Havenview Middle STEAM School's Facebook Page](#)

The American Council of Teachers of Russian's (ACTR) Olympiada of Spoken Russian . . .

Launched in the late 1960s, the ACTR Olympiada of Spoken Russian is the oldest of ACTR's secondary school activities.

Drawing on the long-established practice of oral exams and competitions, the Olympiada has provided successive generations of American high school and middle school students of Russian with a forum in which to demonstrate their achievement in Russian language study, while conversing with other speakers of Russian and meeting with students of Russian from schools other than their own.

Source: [The American Council of Teachers of Russian Website](#)

Greetings Teachers and Leaders,

We are well into the testing season, and students are striving for excellence by using their critical thinking skills during the assessments. Building on the tips shared in last week's ELA submission, we offer five additional strategies to keep students focused, motivated, and ready to perform during this critical testing season!

Stay Focused

Complete Some Puzzles

Puzzles - whether they are the typical puzzles that are put together to make a picture or something like [riddles](#) or [logic puzzles](#) - can be a great deal of fun and may help develop a growth mindset in students. Puzzles usually take longer to complete and require students to fail before they succeed. Integrating these types of growth mindset activities is essential to students' development!



Reflect on the School Year

The block of time available after students complete a standardized assessment provides a great opportunity for scholars (and teachers!) to reflect on the school year and think about what went well, how they grew, and what they still need to learn.

Let Students Plan Their Own End of Year Party

Give students a (small) budget and let them plan their own party for the end of the year. Assign students to work in teams to create a plan, and then have the class vote on the best option. Let them figure out what food will be involved, what games they can play, and how to make a small amount of money go a long way. Students can even compose a letter that goes home to their parents. Sharing the responsibility for hosting the end-of-year party takes some of the pressure off of teachers and gets students more engaged. It also helps them understand how expensive parties can be!



Practice Oral Storytelling

Give students a chance to practice telling stories orally and build their speaking and listening skills. We often focus on writing stories, but telling stories orally is an important skill as well. Wordless picture books can help spark creativity. Have students use the pictures from a wordless book to tell their own story. To increase technology integration, consider recording students as they tell their stories!

Create Origami Art

Origami is not only fun, but it can also benefit upper elementary students academically. It builds spatial awareness, understanding of symmetry and other geometry skills, and requires students to read and follow instructions. It also requires patience and persistence. For an added touch, read Haiku books to the students as they create their masterpieces!



This time of year does not have to create added stress. Remember, being intentional with daily plans is the best way to close out the year! Keep pushing and believing in yourself and the students!

The Focal Point

K-8 MATH

ROMOND ARNOLD, MANAGER

Hello IZone 3.0 Mathematicians,

The mathematics achievement gap persists as a significant challenge in education, particularly among students in Grades 2-8. Addressing this gap requires a multifaceted approach with teachers playing a pivotal role. Educators can effectively narrow the gap and foster greater success amongst their students by enhancing their expertise in mathematics content and refining instructional delivery.

Closing the Mathematics Achievement Gap: Strategies for Grades 2-8 Teachers

Understanding the Mathematics Achievement Gap:

Define the mathematics achievement gap and its impact on student outcomes.

Examine the factors contributing to the persistence of the gap, including socioeconomic disparities, access to resources, and teacher preparedness.

Enhancing Teachers' Content Knowledge:

Emphasize the importance of teachers' deep understanding of mathematical concepts and procedures.

Provide opportunities for ongoing professional development in mathematics content, including workshops, courses, and collaborative learning communities.

Encourage teachers to use research-based instructional resources to strengthen content knowledge.

Improving Instructional Delivery:

Implement effective instructional strategies tailored to the diverse needs of students.

Utilize formative assessment techniques to gauge students' understanding and tailor instruction accordingly.

Incorporate real-world applications and problem-solving activities to enhance students' mathematical reasoning skills.

Foster a growth mindset in students by demonstrating perseverance and a positive attitude towards mathematics.

Cultivating a Supportive Learning Environment:

Create a classroom culture that values effort, persistence, and academic growth.

Provide differentiated instruction to meet the individual needs of students, including those who may be struggling or advanced.

Foster collaborative learning opportunities where students can engage in meaningful mathematical discourse and peer learning.

Establish partnerships with families and communities to reinforce mathematical learning outside of the classroom.

Continuous Reflection and Improvement:

Encourage teachers to reflect on their instructional practices and student outcomes regularly.

Provide opportunities for peer observation, feedback, and collaboration to promote professional growth.

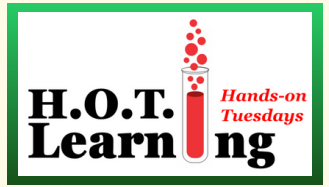
Embrace a growth mindset among educators, recognizing that improvement is an ongoing process.

Closing the mathematics achievement gap for students in Grades 2-8 requires a concerted effort from educators, administrators, families, and communities. By enhancing teachers' expertise in mathematics content and refining instructional delivery, schools can create an environment where all students have the opportunity to succeed in mathematics. Through ongoing professional development, collaborative learning communities, and a commitment to continuous improvement, educators can make meaningful strides in narrowing the gap and ensuring equitable access to high-quality mathematics education for all students.

K-8 SCIENCE

ANGELA ROWE-JACKSON, MANAGER

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



The Crucial Role of Field Trips in Education

As the season for field trips approaches, careful planning and preparation are essential to ensure a successful and enriching experience for students and educators. In the vast landscape of education, where lessons often unfold within the confines of classrooms, field trips emerge as transformative journeys that transcend traditional boundaries. They are not just outings; they are invaluable opportunities for experiential learning, fostering a dynamic connection between theoretical knowledge and real-world application.

Field trips offer an antidote to digital fatigue in an era dominated by screens and virtual interactions. They provide a break from the monotony of routine and offer students the chance to engage with the world in all its complexity and beauty. By stepping outside their comfort zones, students expand their horizons and cultivate a sense of wonder that fuels lifelong learning.



Begin by clearly defining the educational goals and learning outcomes you aim to achieve through the field trip. Consider how the excursion aligns with the curriculum and what specific knowledge, skills, or experiences you want students to gain.

Conduct thorough research on the chosen destination to familiarize yourself with its facilities, exhibits, and educational programs. Contact the venue in advance to inquire about guided tours, workshops, or special activities that can enhance the learning experience. Create a detailed itinerary outlining the schedule, transportation arrangements, and any necessary permissions or waivers.

field trip!

After the field trip, take time to reflect on the experience and evaluate its effectiveness in achieving the learning objectives. Solicit feedback from students, educators, and chaperones to identify strengths, areas for improvement, and opportunities for future trips. Document the impact of the field trip on student learning and engagement to inform future planning and decision-making. Click the link below to explore field trip opportunities in the Memphis area!

Resource: [Memphis Field Trip Directory](#)

Together, We are ONE in SCIENCE!

HIGH SCHOOL

DR. WILLIAM KINARD III, MANAGER

Submitted by Brenda Wells, ELA Coach

Developing Better Writers

“Cognitive Apprenticeship” is a model of instruction developed by Alan Collings, John Seely Brown, and Susan E. Newman that combines the ancient apprenticeship model of learning with modern-day formal schooling. In the article *Developing Better Writers*, author Sarah Gosner offers details on strategies that can be incorporated to strengthen writing instruction. Listed below are some of the key points proposed in the article. Click the link below to enjoy the full text.

- Model the writing process—Teachers think aloud, explain, and demonstrate.
- Emphasize and improve feedback—Make it action-oriented. Suggest alternatives.
- Don't overmark—Select a focus with each assignment.
- Expand beyond essays—Research shows that writing across the curriculum improves students' ability to analyze information, connect disparate concepts, and synthesize information in new ways.



Reference:

Gonser, Sarah. “Developing Better Writers.” Edutopia, George Lucas Educational Foundation, 9 Apr. 2021, www.edutopia.org/article/developing-better-writers.

Standard 9-10.W.TTP.2

Write informative/explanatory texts to analyze and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection and organization of content.



Students should practice writing daily. They retain more information when they use a pencil or pen and paper; it helps them connect physically. Students refine their voices. They may talk first and then write. Others may sketch to start; it helps them to visualize the topic more vividly. When editing, those who read aloud tend to spot more grammatical mistakes and word choice errors. Learners may need a brief brain break to gain fresh insights and to get creative juices flowing. Developing better writers is an intentional process. As students fine-tune, they are bound to become practitioners and pros!




2024 IZone High School Commencement Schedule

MSCS 2024 Commencement Ceremonies

High School	Graduation Date	Graduation Time	Venue
B T Washington	May 18, 2024	10:00 AM	Orpheum
Hamilton	May 16, 2024	6:00 PM	Cannon
Manassas	May 18, 2024	4:00 PM	Cannon
Melrose	May 21, 2024	7:00 PM	Renasant
Mitchell	May 20, 2024	6:00 PM	Cannon
Oakhaven	May 18, 2024	9:00 AM	Cannon
Trezevant	May 17, 2024	7:00 PM	Renasant
Westwood	May 18, 2024	12:00 PM	Cannon
Wooddale	May 17, 2024	6:00 PM	Cannon



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.***