

## ELA Meeting Notes

October 6, 2015

Grades 6-12 ½ Day Morning

Grades K-5 ½ Day Afternoon

### High School

-Shared Data

-Action Plan Ideas: if you passed Keystone in 11<sup>th</sup> then you get to choose your 12<sup>th</sup> grade English- if you did not pass then you take 12<sup>th</sup> grade English & project based remediation, happy with vocabulary

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

-Shared Data

-Action Plan Ideas: Vocabulary (kids doing well) great online resources, John Collins Writing (kids are more accountable and there is more writing occurring all around), independent reading (2 options- AR or project) with individual goals

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

-Concern with Informational Text and Text Dependent Analysis- using Newsela under a free subscription but would like to see it used in other grade levels too, great online hot topics, questions, and writing

-Would like to see Social Studies using more reading strategies and informational text reading/writing to help \*If possible have all Social Studies teachers trained in Reading Apprenticeship (with a different trainer).

### 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

-Text Dependent Analysis (TDA) across the board

-Types of Writing (need to include more)

-Pro- Tiger Time is pulling more Core into their own themes

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

-Text Dependent Analysis is difficult

- Pros-everyone is on the same page and moving in the same directions

-Vocabulary is great- love the online resources

### John Collins

Glows

-Across content areas being used (sometimes even more than expected)

-Much more writing occurring

-Easier grades with FCAs – faster because you aren't correcting everything

Grows

-5 Types of Writing Posters have gone missing for the Middle School

-More training on FCAs for non-English Teachers

-Should we be using the Frayer Model for vocabulary of the John Collins vocabulary cards? Both are very similar

- What about getting a lower level John Collins writing for K, 1, 2?
- Newsela -Can we get a district subscription?
- Reading material can be adapted easily to reading levels, great questions, and writing prompts on non-fiction to help with Text Dependent Analysis

#### Curriculum Changes-

- Need to add vocabulary changes
- Common assessments
- Move some pieces of literature around to places where they fit and are taught better
- Grammar still needs to be addressed across grade levels

#### Academic Vocabulary

- We explored Partners in Learning list of words
- Will send the link to everyone
- Overall positive about the detailed list linked to standards and grade breakdown
- Do not like some of the actual definitions
- Goal- ELA members will collaborate with their colleagues and use the list as a starting point. Throughout this school year, mark on the list when and where you use the word in your teaching. We'll bring this information to our May ELA Meeting and share then.

#### TASD Website

- Not all units are uploaded of the curriculum at each grade level- Kathi Felker will check with Tech Support on this.
- Upload all curriculum documents up into the shared folder for all to easily access

#### Discussion

- Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> is our next ELA Meeting- is it possible to do Grades 6-12 one day and grades K-5 one day (whole day) due to sub coverage issues?

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Shared Data
- Action Plan Ideas: focus on TDA, Pillar writing, Journey's is meeting their needs, supplements for Grammar, focus on comparing/contrasting, and John Collins Writing

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Shared Data
- Action Plan Ideas: Journey's is more aligned then the past series, John Collins Writing, strong Grammar with John Collins

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

- Action Plan Ideas: Journeys is strong, Foundations in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade has helped students with spelling in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, John Collins Writing, Junior Great Books helps with TDA

-Joanne Yanchick shared screener she piloted from Journeys with her students. Some pros/cons so far, she will share more at the end of the year  
-Discussion on the great changes of socioeconomics and high IEPs- more help needed with less to work with (tutoring program after school, summer programs, etc.)

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

-Action Plan Ideas: need to help support higher grades with TDA and modeling for students how to pull from the text more to support their answers, Junior Great Books helps with TDA, Foundations is very strong this year

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

-Action Plan Ideas: Trying to do more writing- possible need for John Collins like writing at the lower levels

#### Kindergarten

-Action Plan Ideas: Would like to see a better more in depth screener used at Kindergarten registration, Foundations is going well, concerns that Kid Writing isn't true Kid Writing anymore due to time constraints (first and second grade agree)

#### Cursive Handwriting

-Starting in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade after Christmas break  
-Higher grades says it's a lost art because there is not time to enforce it, but rather 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is an exposure

#### 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Journeys

##### Glows

-Technology  
-Fiction/Nonfiction  
-Grammar (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>)  
-Trainings/Online has been great-Think Central

##### Grows

- Grammar 5<sup>th</sup> Grade (older version of Journeys) needs to be supplemented- hope to use Compass to also help supplement  
-Write in Readers- some pros and cons- needs more discussion later in the year

#### Additional Concerns:

It was the general consensus that on several occasions students are being promoted to the next grade without having the prerequisite skills. This becomes a huge problem as the student reaches late elementary/early middle school when it gets harder to close the gap.

It was suggested the district take a closer look at the retention policy and seriously consider retaining students (especially in the younger grades) who lack the skills necessary to be successful in the next grade.