

English Language Arts, 6-12

Elizabeth Veneziano

Supervisor of English Language Arts, 6-12

West Orange Public Schools

Program Evaluation

September – December 2015

- Discussions with Superintendent and Principals
- Discussions with teachers in department meetings
- Formal observations, informal walkthroughs
- Review of current data
- Review of current curriculum and materials
- Benchmarks and Quarterly Assessments



Current Middle School Program

- Core ELA course in grades 6-8
- Honors, General Education, In Class Support
- Instruction delivered via Workshop Model
- Mini/Independent or Group Work/Closure
- Required independent reading
- Edison: 79 minutes
- Roosevelt/Liberty: 55 minutes
- Required Reading elective in grade 7



Middle School Strengths

- Common structure of instructional delivery
- Increase in student reading, student choice in reading
- Close reading is taught and modeled
- Short common texts used to model and demonstrate skill
- Specific tools/resources provided to students

Middle School Strengths

- Established classroom routines
- Student use of language when discussing texts
- Infusion of “PARCC-like” tasks aligned to curriculum
- Infusion of technology to enhance student learning
- Common planning and collaboration among teachers



Middle School Areas for Growth

- Use of independent reading
- Ensure all standards are taught
- Written curriculum to reflect taught curriculum
- Balance of reading and writing in each unit



Middle School Areas for Growth

- Eliminate redundancy in texts across grade levels
- Longer texts to increase stamina
- Common terms across grade levels, align with K-5
- Intervention for struggling readers
- Vocabulary and grammar practice



Middle School Two Year Plan

Year 1: 2015-2016

- Develop 6-8 scope and sequence that includes “must do” teaching and learning
- Develop 6-8 ELA Text List
- Expand classroom libraries
- Professional Development
 - *Strategies to create more student accountability in reading*
 - *Enhancing text-based writing assignments*
 - *Implementation of 6-8 Scope and Sequence*



Middle School Two Year Plan

Year 1: 2015-2016

- Establish process and procedures to assess reading level
- Revise Honors placement process
- Evaluate HAP program
- Evaluate effectiveness of Reading elective
- Grades 5-6 and 8-9 articulation and peer walkthroughs



Middle School Two Year Plan

Year 2: 2016-2017

- Use scope and sequence to drive instruction and learning
- Professional Development to support scope and sequence
 - *Literary Analysis*
 - *Evidence-Based Writing from Informational Text*
 - *Enhancing Student Analysis of Poetry*
 - *Multimedia in the Classroom*



Middle School Two Year Plan

Year 2: 2016-2017

- Infuse more common reads into curriculum
- Grades 5-9 articulation and peer walkthroughs
- Implement reading assessment process and procedures

Current High School Program

- Core ELA course in grades 9-12
- Honors, General Education, In Class Support
- AP offered in grades 11 and 12
- Traditional ELA instructional delivery, integration of reading and writing
- Literature based, core texts in each grade level
- Class period of 57 minutes, rotating drop schedule
- Additional ELA electives selected by students



High School Strengths

- Integrated practice of reading and writing
- Emphasis on critical thinking and analysis
- Infusion of current texts to balance classics
- Infusion of “PARCC-like” tasks aligned to curriculum



High School Strengths

- Team Teaching program established
- Mountaineer Writing Center piloted
- Infusion of technology to enhance student learning
- Collaboration among department



High School Areas for Growth

- Clearer expectations for Advanced Placement, Honors, College Preparatory
- More cohesive writing expectations across grades
- Updated curriculum
- Updated electives that support skills and appeal to student population
- Student access to Mountaineer Writing Center
- Honors placement process



High School Two Year Plan

Year 1: 2015-2016

- Develop curriculum revision cycle
- Establish and evaluate 9-12 ELA Text List
- Develop 9-12 ELA expectations/depths of skills to include writing continuum
- Evaluate core course sequence



High School Two Year Plan

Year 1: 2015-2016

- Develop new elective and revise Journalism electives
- Expand Mountaineer Writing Center
- Evaluate and enhance Grade 9 Team Teaching
- Grades 8-9 Articulation and peer walkthroughs

High School Two Year Plan

Year 2: 2016-2017

- Continue to infuse engaging complex texts
- Professional Development to support college and career readiness and literacy across content areas
 - *Literary Analysis*
 - *Evidence-Based Writing from Informational Text*
 - *Enhancing Student Analysis of Poetry*
 - *Multimedia in the Classroom*
- Propose new core course sequence

High School Two Year Plan

Year 2: 2016-2017

- Continue to evaluate electives
- Continue and expand Mountaineer Writing Center
- Revise curriculum according to curriculum cycle
- Grades 8-9 articulation and peer walkthroughs



Contact Information

- Elizabeth Veneziano
- Supervisor of English Language Arts, 6-12
- 973-669-5301 ext. 31545
- eveneziano@woboe.org