



Kevin P. McCarthy, Regional Superintendent

Terry L. Brown, Regional Director

November 2, 2009

Pointed in the Right Direction!

1. **On the subject of grades from Dr. Rod Richmond:** Does every teacher in your building have a clear and concise rationale for their grading procedures? Is it in writing? Does every student and parent have a copy? Have you considered comparing report card grades with Formative Assessment Performance? What exactly are teachers' grades measuring? Passive compliance or authentic engagement? How do you know?
2. **STAR/Excel Plans** – On your data dashboard is a tab for Excel plans. Make sure the number of plans listed on this tab includes all of the plans in your school, the plans are up to date and focused on the individual child's needs, and every child who needs a plan has one.
3. **Teacher Evaluations** – It is now November. For any teacher who needs support as part of his/her evaluation, you should have already done at least one informal and one formal evaluation with clearly defined expectations, timelines for improvement, and a plan for ongoing review of progress. All of this must be documented. Please do not submit a teacher as non-reelect without this documentation. Regardless of whether there is concern about performance, all components of the evaluation must be included for every teacher going through the process. If a teacher is new to your building, you must track down the evaluation file(s) from the previous schools(s) to make a complete file in your school. If you have questions or need help, ask **now.**) **Several principals expressed concern about not receiving an updated list of teachers for evaluation from H.R. They informed me that the list will be coming soon. In the meantime, you already know everyone who should have an evaluation done by February (1-3 year teacher, up for tenure, up for professional license, or on an improvement plan. In addition, teachers new to your school need evaluations as well.) While the delay is a concern, please make sure you are taking care of this as well as you can.)**
4. **REMINDER: Mid-South Technology Conference Registration Open Now! December 9-10, 2009**, at the Cook Convention Center. Come away with new ideas to implement as we continue "*Building Technology Communities*". To register, go to <http://www.mcsk12.net/techconference>. Consider to what degree you want your school represented at this important event.
5. **Student Councils Conference from James Bacchus:** The Tennessee Association of Student Council is hosting its annual state conference for high schools at **Central High on Saturday, November 7, 2009**. Currently only one MCS high school has registered other than the host school. Additionally, most of MCS high schools listed a Student Council sponsor on the Yearlong Supplement report for 08-09, and many have for 09-10. Do not miss out on this opportunity. Every Northeast high school should be well represented at this important conference. **Have your sponsor contact Erin Starnes at Central High for registration information.**
6. **Student ID's:** Please ensure we have 100% compliance with this mandate. Send Tanya Harris an email simply stating your approximate percent completion or status in this process.
7. **TN Framework for Evaluation:** Attached is the address to the website for the TN Framework for Evaluation. Make sure every teacher's file is complete with the following components: Summative Report, Summary Report, Planning Information Record, Observation Notes, Reflecting Information Record, Appraisal Record, Unit/Lesson Plan Analysis, Educator Information Record, and Future Growth Plan.

http://www.state.tn.us/education/frameval/doc/comprehensive_assessment.pdf
If they read in PDF, use pages 47-64
8. **Fall Student Exhibition:** **The date of the Fall Student Exhibition is November 12, 2009.** High level student work is a must for the Northeast region.



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- 9. EPGY Stanford Language Arts and Writing from Susan Dold:** EPGY Stanford Language Arts and Writing Program are now available to your schools. This online program, a companion to Stanford Math, can be used as an intervention for students in grades 4-8 or as enrichment for students reading at or above the second grade level. It may also be used with high school students who are truly struggling in English Language Arts. To gain access to the program, teachers should go to the online registration system (AVATAR) and register for course 4079.4992, EPGY Stanford Language Arts and Writing Introductory Professional Development. They will be asked to watch a video on Media-Site and pass a short assessment. Upon successful completion of the course, teachers will be instructed to e-mail Nick Stutzman of Stanford and me. Stanford will then allow access to the system. This step is very important; please remind your teachers to e-mail us and tell us where they teach. Otherwise, their access to the system will be delayed.
- 10. Behavior Corner from Angeletta Giles:** Perfect behavior this week so no behavior corner. This will return with the bad behavior next week.

➤ NorthEast News

- The Cordova High Thespian Club placed 1st in the TN state competition for one act plays. The winning production, Doubt, will be at the Wolfpack Playhouse November 19-21. I highly recommend you arrange for students to attend. The award winning playhouse will also present An Inspector Calls November 12, 13, 14, and 16 at 7:30 pm and November 15 at 2:30 pm.

SEND US SOME NEWS FROM YOUR SCHOOL!!

Coming Up.....Important Dates

Thursday, November 12

Tuesday, November 17

Tuesday, December 15

January 4-15

Tuesday, January 19

January 27- May14

Tuesday, February 16

Tuesday, March 16

Tuesday, April 20

Tuesday, May 18

Fall Student Exhibition

Parent Assembly Meeting at TLA from 5:30 – 7:30
(National Parent Involvement Day)

Parent Assembly Meeting at TLA from 5:30 – 7:30
(Culture Celebration)

DIBELS Benchmark Dates

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