

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LaGrange, GA., December 2, 2022 – Every week until the end of the 2022-2023 school year, The Troup County School System will highlight a Professional Learning Community from a different school.

The goal of the Professional Learning Communities is to meet regularly and discuss standards-based approaches, common assessments, student work, student-level data, interventions, and instructional improvement strategies.

This week's highlight is **Long Cane Elementary School - Using the Data, written by Katie Brown, Principal of LCES.**

Mrs. Ferguson and Mrs. Hale are 4th-grade math teachers at LCES. One teacher teaches whole-group math while the other helps with small-group instruction in math.



They meet 2 to 3 times a week during planning or after school. They also meet with 3rd and 5th-grade math teachers monthly for vertical PLCs. Student data is also communicated with the gifted teacher and the Early Intervention Program teacher once a week.

What do these two teachers do in PLCs?

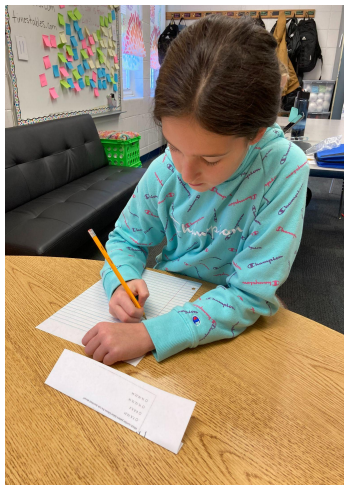
Ferguson and Hale use the system formative and unit assessments and take that data to drive instruction. They identify which students haven't mastered specific standards. If the majority of kids haven't mastered it, Mrs. Hale reteaches the standard to all 4th graders. If a handful of students don't master it, then the standard is explicitly retaught to those students in small groups. After this, students will retest using a different assessment. The students who still haven't mastered it are given extra specialized i-ready independent practice lessons and continued small group explicit instruction with Mrs. Ferguson. i-ready is an online assessment and instruction that helps teachers provide all students a path to proficiency and growth in reading and mathematics. Pre-requisite skills are also brought in to help at this point. The cycle continues even as new standards are introduced. Hale and Ferguson keep up with the data on who has mastered what. The students are aware as well and know what standards they are working on in their goal folders. During PLC time, Hale and Ferguson discuss new ways to reteach and discuss plans for getting kids to master the standards.

Is it working?

Absolutely! For example, the rounding math standard was taught to all 4th graders in August. At that time, we had 36 out of the 92 not master the standard. The teachers met in PLCs and came up with a plan. After reassessing in November, the number of students who have not mastered that standard decreased to 17. Out of that 17, 8 of those students are very close to mastery.



As a principal, I believe in the PLC process. Having discussions about students and what they know and don't know is crucial to student learning. Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Ferguson are experts at looking at the data and making corrections to instruction. They work as a team, and the students benefit from their collaboration. They are PLC rock stars at LCES!



About Troup County School System

Troup County School System is an accredited educational system with over 12,200 students in grades K-12. TCSS does offer a free Pre-K program at each elementary school. The system is comprised of eleven elementary schools, three middle schools, three high schools, one college and career academy, and one alternative learning center. Students within the school system are taught a rigorous and relevant curriculum that helps them make college and career choices beyond graduation. The system 2022 graduation rate is 85.9 percent. To learn more about Troup County School System, visit troup.org and the Troup County School System Facebook page.

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