

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

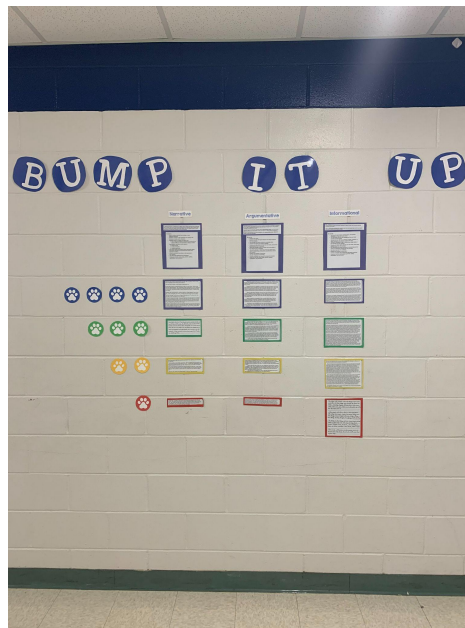
LaGrange, GA., December 9, 2022 – Every week until the end of the 2022-2023 school year, The Troup County School System will highlight a Professional Learning Community from a different school.

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 Middle School - Meeting with Purpose, written by Whitney Glisson, Principal of LCMS.**

LCMS Spotlight: Meeting with Purpose

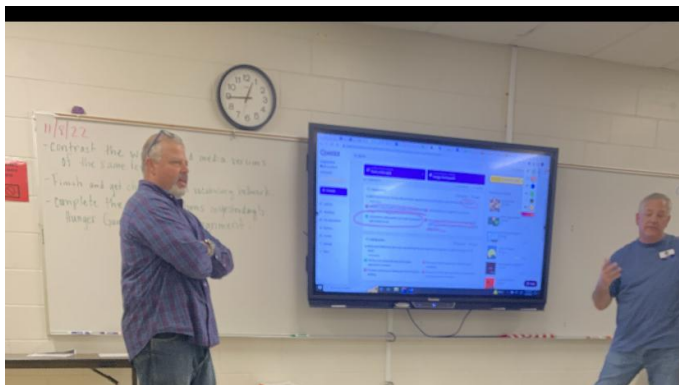
Mr. Greg Bush, Mr. Troy Kelley, and Mrs. Dedra Thornton are all 7th-grade English teachers at Long Cane Middle School. They have a dedicated collaborative planning day on Wednesdays but meet multiple times weekly during their common planning time.



What do these teachers do in PLCs?

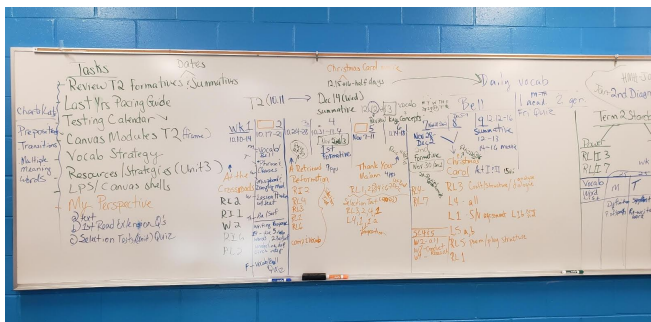
Mr. Bush, Mr. Kelley, and Mrs. Thornton do a great job planning their lessons, reflecting on lessons, and looking at data during their planning time. Student learning is always the central focus of their passionate planning meetings. They use formative and summative assessments aligned with the standards to drive their instruction and discuss where the gaps lie in student learning. Once these gaps have been identified,

they diagnose where the misunderstandings are and plan their lessons to address those misunderstandings with their classes intentionally. During their meetings, this trio also recognizes students who may need a little more intensive support with a particular standard. They can plan for and utilize their intervention period to support those students in specialized small groups. Seventh-grade ELA has also been focusing on improving writing and vocabulary in their lessons. In collaboration with our media specialist, they created a "Bump It Up" wall, an idea seen at our neighboring Long Cane Elementary School, to encourage student self-reflection. Students can use this tool to help them evaluate their writing and learn ways to "bump up" their writing level. They have also identified important vocabulary needs in their students and devised a plan to bridge those gaps using a vocabulary focus weekly. This group is just one example of an exceptional professional learning community that brings passion to their work and students.



Is it working?

Their professional learning group is doing a great job of supporting student learning. Just recently, our school took the iReady reading diagnostic assessment. Since taking the first assessment in the fall, our students have made significant progress in a short time. 58% of 7th-grade students have already met their growth goal for the entire year, and we are just in December! 59% of our 7th-grade students improved their score 100 points or more on the assessment. We are seeing evidence of standards mastery even before the mid-term, and student writing is improving at a steady rate. This team of teachers' hard work and dedication makes a significant difference in our student's lives.



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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