

## ***Media Release***

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

LaGrange, GA., March 24, 2023 – Every week until the end of the 2022-2023 school year, The Troup County School System highlights a Professional Learning Community from a different school.

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

This PLC highlight is from **West Point Elementary, written by Keneithia Cook, Principal of WPES.**

West Point Elementary School teachers are excited to continue their Professional Learning Community (PLC) work. WPES teachers were given a PLC notebook at the beginning of the school year and hit the ground running with the ongoing development of these bi-weekly meetings, which vary between planning, data, and professional learning.

These PLC notebooks contain five sections: GADOE, STANDARDS, PACING GUIDES, ASSESSMENTS, and DATA. These hard-working teachers at WPES embraced this PLC mindset with ease and have continued using these ongoing collaborative discussions to guide their daily instruction.

3rd-grade teachers at WPES are a fine example of the PLCs at work. These teachers are Lauren Bush, Sonya Finlay, the 23'-24' Teacher of the Year, and Aleisha Smith. Tim Beasley supports them with the Early Intervention Program (EIP) students. They are supported by Exceptional Education teachers Deborah Robinson and Holly Martin. During their collaborative PLC work, these teachers get down to the nitty-gritty of analyzing data, using the district common assessments to determine student mastery of grade-level standards, and making instructional decisions based on where their students are and where they hope to be.

They have collaborative discussions centered around data and using it to drive instruction in their classrooms daily. 3rd-grade teachers meet on Tuesdays and Wednesdays of each week. 2 of the teachers are departmentalized and share students with Bush, teaching ELA/Reading. Finlay teaches Math/Science,/Social Studies. Smith leads a self-contained group with all subjects. 3rd-grade teachers have seen fantastic

growth in their students from Fall to Winter. They anticipate great Spring results as well. Through the PLC work, they have seen eight students move to one grade level in Reading and 12 in Math. They identified phonological awareness and high-frequency words as strengths in Reading and numbers/operations, algebra/algebraic thinking in Math. 3rd-grade students are gearing up to take their Spring iReady diagnostic testing this week. 3rd-grade teachers have been closely monitoring their common assessment data and anticipate growth in their 3rd graders.

All the teachers at WPES are working hard in their grade-level PLCs. They readily take the initiative in these meetings and constantly talk about data, whether it's iReady, ALO, common assessments, or GMAS. Administrators are so proud of the teachers at WPES for their hard work and dedication to PLCs. Not only do they willingly take the initiative, but they problem solve. They don't just accept that a student is performing below grade level but continue to work with them until they determine what works best for that student.

We are so grateful for a group of committed professional educators who will not only do what it takes to help their students succeed but who have a by-any-means-necessary approach. Hats off to a dedicated faculty and staff who truly understand what PLCs are all about. The unsung heroes make WPES a great place to spend the day!

### **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](http://troup.org) and the Troup County School System Facebook page.

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