



MTSS MINUTE



A GOSHEN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1 NEWSLETTER

NOTABLE DATES



Winter School Benchmark Meetings

Jan. 13 – Feb. 4

At the building-level, teachers will unpack universal screening data to review student growth.

Guiding Coalition

Feb. 4

District Guiding Coalition members will meet to continue their work leading PLC work district-wide.

District Literacy Team

Feb. 5

District literacy leaders will continue drafting a district-wide literacy action plan during their third meeting of the year.

Green Friday

Feb. 20

Students are invited to interventions and enrichments.



A New Semester, A Clearer Path

As we step into a new semester, we have the opportunity to reset, refocus, and realign our MTSS practices to ensure every student receives the support they need to succeed. The start of a new semester invites a renewed focus for clarity. As educators, we can gain clarity in our expectations, systems, and sense of collective teacher efficacy. With our experiences & lessons learned throughout the fall semester to guide us, we can refine our Tier 1 practices, strengthen interventions, and build momentum for student growth. This is our moment to reinforce what works, adjust what needs attention, and confidently create a clearer path forward for both students and educators.



MTSS Myths

Myth: January is too early to make changes to interventions.

Reality: *Mid-year is exactly the right time to adjust. Fresh data and a fresh start make January one of the most impactful times to refine supports.*



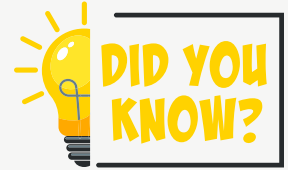
Myth: If students didn't respond to interventions last semester, they just need more time.

Reality: *Students who didn't respond likely need a different strategy, intensity, or intervention focus. A new semester should bring renewed clarity to evaluate interventions.*

Myth: Clear paths mean rigid systems.

Reality: *MTSS thrives when systems are both clear and flexible. Clarity helps teams adapt more effectively to student needs.*

FAQ Corner



Question: What should we prioritize first in January?

Answer: *Begin with Tier 1 alignment including clear expectations, classroom routines, and updated data ensure a smooth start to the semester.*

Question: How do we know which students need adjusted support?

Answer: *Review progress monitoring data to identify which students are not growing at a rate to close the gap.*

Question: Will we lose momentum by revisiting expectations?

Answer: *Resetting expectations in January actually boosts momentum by aligning staff and students around shared norms for the semester ahead.*

MTSS in Action



Trail's 5th grade ELA and math teams each had a half day data deep dive to review winter benchmark data in order to plan for the semester.



Trail's sped department also had a data deep dive to better understand student IEP goals, instruction & Branching Minds.



Southeast's special education department met with coaches, the special education director, and principal for a data deep dive.



Lincoln's Kinder team met with coaches to learn more about Branching Minds groups, family communication, & supporting docs.

MTSS Resources & Learning Opportunities

A Guide to Self-Assessment of MTSS Implementation

Helps teams clarify where they are in MTSS implementation, identify strengths and gaps, and prioritize next steps using a structured self-assessment rubric.

The Ultimate MTSS Progress Monitoring Guide & Toolkit

A comprehensive resource with templates and guidance to ensure progress monitoring data is clear, consistent, and actionable throughout the semester.

Tips & Strategies

5 tips for a clearer path in the new semester

1

Tip #1: Reestablish routines and expectations

Consistency supports both academic and behavioral success.

2

Tip #2: Review current data with fresh eyes

Look for trends, gaps, and opportunities for quick wins.

3

Tip #3: Reconnect with students intentionally

Strong relationships make instruction more effective.

4

Tip #4: Focus on Tier 1 before interventions

A strong foundation prevents overload later.

5

Tip #5: Set short, achievable goals

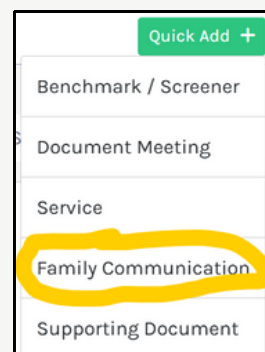
Small steps create steady progress and boost team confidence.



Branching Minds

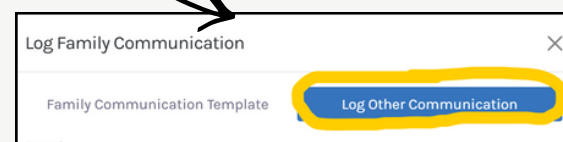
Family Communication

Document your contact with families in BrM.



In a student's profile page, select quick add & choose family communication.

Log other communication, fill information & save.



Check out [this article](#) for more information on family communications in BrM. 

MTSS Support or Coaching

Do you want to take a deeper dive into any of the topics within this newsletter? I'd be happy to help! Whether it's a quick question or an in-depth meeting, reach out to schedule a time for us to chat.



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