

# JHW Inspire Academy ~ Bell

Edition 3 of 6

## Are We Making Progress?

### *How we assess learning*

Assessment is an integral part of instruction, as it determines whether the goals of education are being met. Assessment affects decisions about grades, placement, advancement, instructional needs, and curriculum. Assessments inspire us to ask these hard questions: "Are we teaching what we think we are teaching?" "Are students learning what they are supposed to be learning?" "Is there a way to teach the subject better, thereby promoting better learning?"

Our students need to know not only the basic reading and arithmetic skills, but also skills that will allow them to face a world that is continually changing. They must be able to think critically, to analyze, and to make inferences.

When students enroll on our campus, they are given a diagnostic assessment in reading and math to determine what specific skills should be targeted for intervention and refinement. This assessment is completed every 30 days so teachers can determine if progress is being made. Students set goals for improvement based on their individual data.

**Congratulations to all the students that participated in our December administration of the STAAR EOC exams! We are SO PROUD of your hard work and look forward to sharing the scores with you as soon as we get them next semester.**



Formative

Interim

Summative

Standardized

Diagnostic

## Curriculum Based Assessments

The CBAs, which are aligned to the scope and sequence at each content and grade level, help determine classroom instruction. CBAs use a variety of formats that are similar to the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR). Teachers also use CBA results to adjust their teaching to help students reach their maximum potential. These are administered at the end of every unit.

# Spotlight on Writing

## *More than a story...*

Text written to explain or describe something is often viewed as not as fun as reading stories; however, it is the type of text most often needed in the adult world. It is the type of writing that our students need to be able to evaluate and apply in college, careers, and in daily life! This writing style is called expository writing.

Expository writing is a required element in high school curriculum. The students are given an assigned topic and work on explaining their topic through the use of a template and an assigned writing format. Our students see the value of using a template as it forces them to stay on topic, expand and elaborate their topic, and then insert the literary elements that help them become effective and creative writers.



## LOOKING AHEAD...

December 20 – January 3 ~ No School/Winter Break

January 4 – Students back at school

January 17 – MLK Day/No School