



Curriculum Update

August 2018

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Sharing some thoughts for a new school year...

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! With a new year we have the opportunity to think about what we can **keep** that has worked to support our students, **drop** whatever we know is outdated or ineffective, and **modify** those things that we know with just a little tweaking could enable tremendous growth for our students. In all grades for ELA and grades K-8 in math, we are starting a year with new curriculum standards (and new curriculum materials in some areas or grade levels, too). In other content areas and specialties, there are lots of ups and downs. But, whether your curriculum changed or not and whether you are new to TCS or not, August presents a new beginning and a fresh start for everyone. Capitalize on that and establish a growth mindset for your kids and yourself.

We can all grow, improve, and change for the better. Author Frederick Hess (2015) wrote in *The Cage-Busting Teacher* that it all comes down to "creating great communities of teaching and learning, one step at a time...going at things differently so that life is less exhausting, opportunities more plentiful, and efforts more rewarding." Thanks in advance for all you will do in the year ahead!



Resources, Pacing, Assessment, & PD

See the Transylvania Learning website for helpful links to resources to support instruction.

On this site you will find:

- Pacing guides for K-5 classroom teachers
- Links to curriculum resources and Quick Reference Guides from NCDPI
- Transition support for new standards areas
- Information on assessment for learning (including district benchmarks and Mastery Connect)
- Professional learning information and follow up from PD sessions
- An overview of our new graduation project
- And much more as we go along...

<https://sites.google.com/tcsnc.org/tcslearning>



Get "SMART" this year!

A **framework or model** helps us organize our work and accomplish big things. Learning is our focus but there's no clean end point for most of what we do. No bubble-sheet test or bar chart really conveys how complex the learning process is for each individual student and for us as professionals.

This year let's get **SMART**...

- Start with a great plan
- Motivate your students, yourself, and your colleagues
- Assess for learning as part of the process, not just at the end points
- Rely on each other to be a support network for your students
- Use Technology as a tool in meaningful ways and not as a way to replace good teaching