

Deep Learning: Literacy

What is our goal?

To support every student to develop strong literacy, critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration, leadership and invention skills that will help them contribute as citizens.

How will we achieve it?

- Engage our staff in professional learning through a variety of models including collaborative inquiry. We will focus on effective assessment and instructional practice supporting enhanced pathways. Topics to include (September to June):
 - o Balanced literacy strategies
 - o Assessment through Running Records
 - o Differentiating instruction and assessment
 - o Using Inclusive Design to meet the diverse needs of a range of students
 - o Addressing special education needs in the literacy classroom
 - o Supporting literacy development through transdisciplinary/cross curricular approaches
 - o Deepening their awareness of the principles of anti-racism and culturally relevant pedagogy
- Provide professional learning opportunities aligned with our School Improvement Process that include collaborative dialogue, and opportunities for inquiry and reflection so that educators can improve their knowledge and skills and strengthen classroom instructional practices through:
 - o Online Google communities (September to June)
 - o Exploration classrooms (September to June)
 - o Closing gaps in literacy (October to May)
 - o Literacy leadership together (September to June)
 - o Understanding assessment (EQAO) (October)
- Build capacity of beginning teachers through face to face professional learning sessions and ongoing mentoring so they are able to engage students in deep learning in inclusive classrooms with high expectations for all students (September to June)
- Support our newly established Itinerant Student Success Transitions Counsellors to work with classroom teachers to support students in Grades 6 to 8 to close literacy gaps (September to June)
- Update TDSB website to include educator and parent resources to support literacy learning in the classroom and at home (Fall/Winter 2019)

How will we know we are successful?

- All students will be deeply engaged in learning opportunities, supported by technology, leading to improved achievement in literacy and they will strengthen their global competencies (critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communications, and citizenship).
- 2018-19 EQAO Assessments will indicate an improvement in Literacy (Grade 3 and 6 Reading, Writing, and Grade 10 OSSLT).
- Teacher participant rates will increase in AQ courses.
- Increased use of internal webpage by educators and external webpage by parents.
- Student Achievement Data including report cards and EQAO, classroom observations, Superintendent of Education school visits, web analysis, surveys (AQ courses), focus groups, professional learning feedback.