

Tryon Elementary School



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

2022-2023

Table of Contents

School Improvement Team Membership	2
Vision, Mission and Belief Statements	3
School Goals	4
Best Practices	5
Action Plan	10
Professional Development Plan	16

We serve our students, our parents, and our community

School Improvement Team Membership 2022-2024

Members of the School Improvement Team were elected by their peers in August 2022. The team will serve for two years (2022-2024). The School Improvement Plan was approved by the Tryon School faculty by secret ballot in September 2022. The School Improvement Leadership Team also affirms its endorsement of the plan.

TITLE	COMMITTEE MEMBER	TITLE	COMMITTEE MEMBER
Teacher of the Year Chair	Kelly Welch	Teacher (4th)	Jennifer Stewart
Principal	Cari Maneen	Teacher (5th)	Donna Godley
Specialist	Jamie Kilgore	Exceptional Children	Mandy Wolfe
Teacher (PreK)	Amy Scott	Title 1	Wanda Jackson
Teacher (K)	Caroline Smith	Teacher Assistant	Stefanie Tyler
Teacher (1st)	Kerri Troutman	Guidance Counselor	May Dunaway
Teacher (2nd)	Mackenzie Lewis	School Secretary	Rhonda Brown
Teacher (3rd)	Jennifer Schweitzer	Parent	Susan Kirk

The School Improvement Plan was developed to align to the requirements of the following:

- Polk County Schools Strategic Plan
- State Board of Education Goals
- AdvancED School Accreditation Standards

Polk County Schools Mission Statement:

The mission of Polk County Schools, in partnership with parents and community, is to prepare and inspire each student to become a literate, responsible, productive member of a diverse society who believes learning is a lifelong process.

Tryon Elementary School Mission Statement:

Tryon Elementary School will provide a strong foundation for lifelong learning by nurturing, guiding, and challenging all students to achieve their maximum potential.

Tryon Elementary School Beliefs (Core Values)

- Every child has the potential to learn. All students will be provided with a variety of instructional approaches to support their learning and demonstrate their achievement.
- Children deserve a safe, nurturing, and caring environment. This is a chief priority.
- Teachers, staff, administrators, parents, students and community members share in the responsibility for providing a supportive learning environment within our school.
- Commitment to continuous improvement empowers students to become confident, self-directed, lifelong learners and leaders.

Tryon Elementary School Vision:

Each child will achieve success

We value cooperation between students, staff, parents, and the community.
We value student and staff attitudes that are positive, respectful, caring and fun.
We value building trusting relationships with all members of the school community.

TRYON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GOALS 2022-2023

The following are agreed upon goals that will support our vision for student achievement. These goals will be assessed throughout the school year to address the effectiveness of the strategies implemented.

Tryon Elementary School faculty will implement research based instructional strategies that are engaging and lead to high quality learning for every student to increase growth rates and eliminate opportunity gaps.

Tryon Elementary School will increase student attendance rates through the implementation of social and emotional wellness strategies and focused interventions.

Tryon Elementary School will increase partnerships with the families and the community it serves.

Tryon Elementary School

Best Practices

The following programs, strategies, and practices represent successful attempts to improve student achievement and school operations. They are the best practices utilized by the faculty and staff and are included to reinforce their importance and need for evaluation and maintenance.

English Language Arts

- Align instruction to North Carolina Standard Course of Study
- Utilize Title 1 funding to target reading intervention to K-5 students evidencing need
- Participate in district- and grade-level meetings to share and implement researched-based strategies in all content areas, as well as Exceptional Children
- Writing journals are used in grades 1-5
- Utilize Readers' Theater to involve students in dialogue, plot development, fluency and retellings
- Utilize fluency and vocabulary exercises to increase oral reading fluency and written vocabulary
- Use computer education to enhance and review reading concepts
- Meet with individual students as needed for reading and writing conferences
- Use diverse media and formats to determine main ideas and supporting details
- Use drama and retellings to increase understanding of detail and story element
- Apply reading and writing skills across the curriculum
- Use rubrics for student self-assessment, peer assessment and to develop and strengthen writing through the revision process
- Provide opportunities for students to share and publish written work in a variety of ways
- Use visual tools to organize thinking and for prewriting strategies
- Teach specific Greek and Latin roots (older grades)
- Place greater emphasis on grammar and spelling during mini-lessons to improve conventions of writing
- Display student writing to promote pride in work
- Use technology as a tool to gather, organize and present information
- Utilize read-alouds at all grade levels to make connections to stories and to improve fluency, vocabulary and comprehension
- Grade 4 teachers utilize vocabulary notebooks

Tryon Elementary School Best Practices

Mathematics

- Align instruction to the North Carolina Standard Course of Study
- Utilize computer-based education programs to enhance and review math concepts, such as MobyMax, Prodigy, SchoolNet
- Provide daily opportunities for students to share math strategies, construct arguments, and express reasoning
- Participate in district- and grade-level meetings to share and implement researched-based strategies in all content areas, as well as Exceptional Children
- Provide activities, such as games and songs, to reinforce and strengthen fluency with addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts
- Utilize math manipulatives to improve understanding
- Review mathematical concepts and skills throughout the school year
- Provide after school tutoring for at-risk students
- Provide opportunities for students to explain their mathematical thinking through writing and "math talks" to further increase math vocabulary
- Apply reading and writing skills across the curriculum in the areas of mathematics

Science & Social Studies

- Align instruction to the NC Standards
- Utilize interactive web sites to enhance classroom learning (virtual field trips, youtube)
- Provide experiential science activities on a frequently recurring basis to increase content knowledge
- Provide non-fiction reading experiences and projects
- Provide opportunities to use and demonstrate an understanding of content vocabulary
- Incorporate hands-on activities and real-world experiences
- Provide opportunities for students to participate in investigations, test observations, draw conclusions & form generalizations
- Utilize materials from Carolina Biological science kits for hands-on, experiential learning activities
- Grade 5 students to participate in Muddy Sneakers Science Expeditions

Tryon Elementary School Best Practices

Student Support & Interventions

- Differentiate student instruction based on individual needs; enrichment, interventions during Tiger Time.
- Tiger Time maximizes instruction by eliminating the need to have students pulled out of class throughout the day
- Identify at-risk students and their needs early in the school year
- Modify lessons for at-risk students
- Progress monitor student growth in literacy using the Amplify Benchmark system to determine next steps
- Informal and formal assessments are used to determine student needs for remediation and/or acceleration
- Provide after school tutoring for at-risk students
- Utilize small groups to differentiate instruction and address diverse learners
- Utilize researched-based Leveled Literacy Interventions with at-risk students
- Provide after school tutoring for at-risk students
- Use research-based interventions and individualized help for diverse learners: (ex: Florida Center for Research, Easy CBM's)
- A student CARE team consisting of a team of professionals meet regularly to identify students in need of special education services, monitor those students already in the program, maintain and evaluate current Individualized Education Plans (IEP), 504 plans, and other necessary modifications and services. This team also serves as a "Think Tank" to support teachers in using strategies and interventions in the classroom when working with any child.
- Provide services such as ESL, EC, Title 1, Occupational Therapy, AG as we identify students
- A full-time school nurse and counselor are on campus to consult with students and staff

Student Recognition Programs

- An end-of-year celebration is held for all students and families and community members are invited
- Student artwork is showcased on campus and in the community
- Each six week grading period students earning A's and B's in core classes make the Tryon School Honor Roll and receive recognition in the Tryon Daily Bulletin and each student receives a certificate
- Faculty and staff recognize students for Top Tiger awards which are given to students who exude great citizenship

Tryon Elementary School Best Practices

Parental Involvement

- Parents receive a handbook at the beginning of the school year highlighting school practices and procedures
- All teachers send “Welcome” letters to parents explaining their classroom schedule, expectations and their discipline plan
- Teachers report student progress with Interim Reports (every 3 weeks) and Report Cards (every 6 weeks)
- An Open House is held at the beginning of the school year.
- Families are encouraged to attend special events, such as Literacy Nights and Informational Meetings
- The Title 1 teachers hosts events where families and students can participate in literacy activities and learning reading strategies so parents can better support their child at home
- Faculty publish articles/photographs of students on polkstudents.org website and Facebook
- The Tryon Elementary School website is updated so families can be informed of events and provided with resources for support
- The principal sends messages to parents using the BrightArrow call system and a monthly newsletter
- School activities are publicized on the marquee signs and on our school Facebook page
- Teachers provide classroom newsletters to parents/guardians by email or paper
- Teachers conduct at least one parent conference and more as needed
- Student agendas are utilized in Grade 5
- A Parent Information bulletin board is located both inside and outside the entrance to the school office

Tryon Elementary School Best Practices

Attendance

- The principal and guidance counselor review attendance and call parents as needed
- Attendance summaries are sent home each 6 weeks.
- Attendance letters are sent home for 3, 6, or 9 unexcused absences
- The principal and guidance counselors utilize the attendance mediation process.
- The staff and the nurse teach and promote healthy habits.
- Parent and teacher conferences are held early in the year as an intervention.

Tryon Elementary School Best Practices

In-House Communications

- The principal sends out “The Tryon Tidbits” via email to support effective communications. Tidbits is updated daily.
- Staff meetings are held regularly
- Teachers attend workshops and share relevant information with staff
- Teachers participate in arts-integrated planning sessions and also communicate via a planning document every 6 weeks.
- Morning and afternoon announcements are conducted daily

Facilities/Operations

- Parents, students, and staff receive handbooks outlining the school procedures and rules
- All staff have input into budgeting decisions to maintain safe and functional facilities and learning environments
- Staff and students receive training in lockdown procedures, fire drill procedures, and tornado drill procedures
- Staff promote a safe environment free of bullying and harassing behaviors through character education activities/programs and meetings with the school counselor

Safe, Orderly and Caring Schools

- A Crisis Prevention Team is established to assist in the development and implementation of the Safe Schools Plan
- A SRO is assigned to Tryon Elementary School
- Staff have access to handheld radios
- Outside doors and inside classroom doors are locked.
- Students travel with a buddy on campus
- Staff have been trained in Lockdown Drill procedures
- Each classroom has an Emergency Plan file located in a designated area in the classroom that includes Student Pick-Up Restriction Lists, Emergency Action Plans, student medical plans, Emergency Drill Plans, and updated class lists.

Tryon Elementary School School Improvement Plan 2022-2023

GOAL 1	Tryon Elementary School faculty will implement research based instructional strategies that are engaging and lead to high quality learning for every student. Students will meet or exceed expected growth in READING as measured by Amplify/DIBELS 8 scores and end-of-grade test results.				
RATIONALE	Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and missing in-person learning, students have not made expected gains in language skills, reading comprehension, and vocabulary development.				
Strategy/Action Steps	Population Served	Timeline	Resource/Budget	Responsible person(s)	Indicators of Success
Differentiate student instruction based on individual needs; enrichment, small group targeted interventions	K-5 students	2022-2023	Teacher created materials Title 1 funds Decodables TIGER TIME	K-5 teachers Additional Teacher Assistants Title 1 intervention teams	Growth on Amplify/DIBELS 8, Growth on EOG's Student work samples Proficiency on NC check-ins
Train all PreK-5th grade teachers on the Science of Reading/LETRS with a focus on decodable text and vocabulary	Certified staff	2022-2023	Teacher created material Title 1 funds Geodes Decodables	Pre K-5 teachers Title 1 Team EC Teachers District PD	Growth on Amplify/DIBELS 8, Growth on EOG's Teacher growth, EVAAS growth
Train K-2 staff in Heggerty Phonics and Letterland practices to target phonemic awareness skills	K-2 teachers and assistants Title 1 team	2022-2023	Title I, State and local instructional supply funds	K-2nd grade teachers, EC teachers	Growth on Amplify/DIBELS 8 Teacher growth
Implement Individualized Reading Plans (IRP's) for at-risk students	K-5 at-risk students	2022-2023	State and Local Funding	K-5 teachers Title 1 Intervention Team	Growth on Amplify/DIBELS 8, Growth on EOG's, Growth on EVAAS

Implement a school-wide reading program	All students	2022-2023	Library books, take home books	K-5 teachers	Growth on Amplify/DIBELS 8, Growth on EOG's
Facilitate One Book, One School	All students	2022-2023	Title 1	Faculty & staff	Growth on EOG's, Title I Documentation Improved attendance Improved school culture
Conduct peer observations of teachers modeling best practices in reading instruction	K-5 teachers	2022-2023	N/A	K-5 teachers Principal	Teacher growth Improved job satisfaction Improved relationships Improved TWCS
Share best teaching practices at faculty meetings	All certified staff	2022-2023	N/A	K-5 teachers Principal	Teacher growth Improved job satisfaction Improved relationships Leadership opportunities Improved TWCS

GOAL 2	<p>Tryon Elementary School faculty will implement research based instructional strategies that are engaging and lead to high quality learning for every student.</p> <p>Students will meet or exceed expected growth in MATH as measured by state assessments in K-2, end-of-grade math assessments in grades 3-5, and EVAAS growth measures.</p>				
RATIONALE	<p>The Covid-19 pandemic has widened gaps especially in the area of mathematics. While some students have grasped grade-level concepts and skills, others have several mathematical foundation gaps, putting them at-risk.</p>				
Strategy/Action Steps	Population Served	Timeline	Resource/Budget	Responsible person(s)	Indicators of Success
Differentiate student instruction based on individual needs/small groups	All students	2022-2023	Teacher created materials TIGER TIME AIG & STEAM	Faculty and Staff Additional Teacher Assistants	Growth on EOG's Proficiency on K-2 assessments and 3-5 EOG's EVAAS growth
Utilize additional teaching assistants to pulling small groups to support instruction and growth	K-2 students	2022-2023	Teacher created materials ESSR funds Title 1 funds	Faculty and Staff Additional Teacher Assistants	Growth on EOG's Proficiency on K-2 assessments and 3-5 EOG's EVAAS growth
Provide after school tutoring in the areas of mathematics utilizing individualized online lessons for support	K-5 students	2022-2023	After School funds On-line research-based programs Lego Robotics	After school teachers	Growth on EOG's Proficiency on K-2 assessments and 3-5 EOG's Improved self esteem EVAAS growth

GOAL 3	Tryon Elementary School faculty will implement research based instructional strategies and hands-on learning activities that are engaging and lead to high quality learning for every student in the areas of SCIENCE education with a focus on increasing the percentage of students proficient in science by subgroup.				
RATIONALE	Teachers want to improve science education by emphasizing creativity, problem-solving skills, and critical thinking at all grade levels.				
Strategy/Action Steps	Population Served	Timeline	Resource/Budget	Responsible person(s)	Indicators of Success
Differentiate student instruction; enrichment, acceleration, remediation	All students	2022-2023	Teacher created materials MTSS process	Faculty and Staff Additional Teacher Assistants	Growth on EOG's and NC Check-ins
Implement STEAM activities for enrichment and inquiry based learning	K-5 students	2022-2023	Funding in place from the state	Faculty and staff	Growth on EOG's and NC Check-ins
Utilize science kits and STEAM boxes for hands-on activities	K-5 students	2022-2023	Funding in place from the state	Faculty and staff	Teacher Observation
Utilize nonfiction text in addition to other resources	K-5 students	2022-2023	Book Nook, Funding from the state	Faculty and staff	Teacher made test
Participate in Muddy Sneakers	5th grade students	2022-2023	School funds, Muddy Sneakers personnel and materials	5th grade teachers	Student participation, assessment data
Schedule visits from FENCE (Foothills Equestrian Nature Center) and invite guest speakers	K-5 students	2022-2023	Teachers set up visits with prior knowledge from the principal	Faculty and staff	Teacher Observation, Student participation
Participate in the Smithsonian Science Professional Development	3-5 students	2022-2023	Classroom materials; grant funded Science kits	3rd-5th grade teachers	Teacher Observation, Student participation

GOAL 4	Tryon Elementary School will increase student attendance rates through the implementation of social and emotional wellness strategies and focused interventions.				
RATIONALE	Attendance rates for the 2021-2022 academic year are not what they were before Covid. Students cannot learn if they do not attend school. It is important to build and continue to foster relationships, offer support to one another, and celebrate our differences. If PreK-5 students and staff develop school-wide practices that enable all to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes associated with the core competencies of social-emotional learning, then a safe and inclusive learning environment will be fostered that emphasizes respect, embraces diversity, and motivates children to want to be at school.				
Strategy/Action Steps	Population Served	Timeline	Resource/Budget	Responsible person(s)	Indicators of Success
Focus on staff and student relationship building to support students' emotional states, guide students in managing their emotions, and arrange for supports and interventions when necessary	All students	2022-2023	Lunch buddies Check-in and out Second Step Character Education Free meals	Teachers, School Counselor Principal	Students to make positive social decisions, Improved behavior and attendance, Improved problem solving, self-regulation, and internalizing skills
Notify parents/ guardians by mail when students have 3, 6, 9 unexcused tardies/absences. Attend attendance mediation as needed	Identified students	2022-2023	School office personal, attendance reports	School Counselor Principal	Increased attendance/ punctuality
Participate in school safety activities where students and staff feel safe	All students All staff	2022-2023	State funds Federal funds School funds	District Personnel Principal Staff	Increased school attendance Improved behavior
Schedule parent and teacher conferences	All students Parents/ guardians	2022-2023 1 required and then as needed	Teacher work samples	Parents/Guardians, Student's teacher(s), School Counselor, Office staff	Increased school attendance/ Punctuality Improved behavior
Implement morale building opportunities and servant leadership to celebrate and recognize our staff and students	All students	2022-2023	PTA funds Character Traits, Top Tiger, attendance, growth, publicize, dine with a staff member.	TES Staff, PTA Principal School Counselor Ideas from Logan Weber-Motivational Speaker	Improved student motivation to come to school. Students will connect social emotional learning to academic work.

GOAL 5	Tryon Elementary School will increase partnerships with the families and the community it serves.				
RATIONALE	Communication and engagement with families, stakeholders, and the community can have an impact on the learning and culture of the school.				
Strategy/Action Steps	Population Served	Timeline	Resource/Budget	Responsible person(s)	Indicators of Success
Arrange Family Engagement Activities throughout the school year to incorporate activities highlighting students' diverse backgrounds	TES parents, students and community	2022-2023	District, PTA and school funds STEAM activities Social Media Platforms, Educational technology programs, All call system	TES Staff, PTA	Increased Student/ Parent Involvement Improved attendance Sign-in sheets Improved school and community culture Improved educational equity
Utilize our community resources	All students Parents/Families Community	2022-2023	Local community organizations	Community leaders TES staff	Increased access to support resources. Students will value positive connections with the community.
Utilize communication folders in PreK-5 to record nightly reading and daily behavior	All students Parents/Families	2022-2023	School funds	PreK-5 teachers	Improved communication between home and school
Provide parent informational events to share resources and strategies to support learning at home	All students Families	2022-2023	School funds Teacher created materials	TES Staff	Improved student performance on homework and classwork Increased family engagement
Continue to support our military children as part of our Purple Star School designation	All students	2022-2023	Holiday cards	TES staff Ideas from Logan Weber-Motivational Speaker	Improved climate, trust and positive peer relationships

2022-2023 Professional Development Plan

Professional Development is aligned with the School Improvement goals. All teachers are fully licensed and highly qualified. Tryon Elementary School will recruit, retain, recognize and compensate a diverse core of highly qualified teachers, administrators, and staff.

- K-2 teachers and assistants participated in Heggerty Phonics training
- K-5 teachers will continue to participate in EnVisions Math training throughout the school year
- All PreK-5 teachers, Title I teachers, EC teachers and the principal will have on-going training in Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) implementation.
- Teachers to peer observe one another for best practices and improvement
- Teachers learning Social-Emotional Learning strategies/skills through the Second Step Program
- Teachers participating in technology workshops (Canvas, DoJo, Google Slides, Google Classroom)
- Teachers participating in county-wide Vertical Team Time
- Title 1 Reading Interventionists to attend meetings to support ELA at the school level
- Teachers receiving training in differentiated professional development throughout the school year
- Individual teachers and principal completing PD modules in NCEES
- Other professional development opportunities provided by Polk County Schools
- Individual teachers completing the National Board Certification process

Home of the Tigers