

November 3, 2009



The Panther Page

State Report Cards **Achievement and TVASS**

The State Report Card from the 2008 – 2009 state-wide testing has been published. The Achievement Report card represents the actual student scores with 96% of Page Middle School Students scoring either Proficient/Advanced.

The TVASS Report Card represents a revised formula that the State of Tennessee used in 2008 – 2009 and will use next year to allow for a transition to the new standards and assessments required by the Tennessee Diploma Project. These changes to the calculations reflect no loss of learning but rather the pursuit of higher standards as we demand the highest level of success for our students. The baseline for the past three years of testing was reset so that a new baseline for determining school grades could be established.

A series of "Java's with Josie" will be scheduled to address these fundamental changes, the expectations of these changes, and how we will proceed as a system and a school to address the needs of all students. The first "Java with Josie" to address the issues above will be at 8:00 a.m. on November 13, 2009.

Unpacking Standards **Making "I Can" Statements** **Students Taking Ownership**

This summer the Page Middle School faculty met and each subject area studied the newly organized state standards. The process we used is called unpacking the standards and the plan we followed is as follows:

1. **Unpack standards:** This summer all subject area teams met to discuss the new standards and developed a plan on how to evaluate and unpack those standards to meet subject area state goals.
2. **Develop student friendly learning targets:** Once teachers understood the process and unpacked the standards, each subject area team developed "I Can" statements in student friendly terms. These "I Can" statements reflect the learning that is required in order to master the basic standard or learning target. All students are given a copy of the "I Can" statements at the beginning of each unit to be studied. The "I Can" statements are the student learning targets or road map for reaching mastery. Students use their more simplified learning targets to keep track of their own learning. The student "I can" statements can be found on each teachers website.
3. **Organize student friendly learning targets into units of study:** once the standards were unpacked and in student friendly terms, the teachers then developed a plan for each nine weeks unit of study. All units included state standards/learning targets and "I Can" statements which are the more simplified learning targets for the students.
4. Through our Check Ups (formative assessments) we provide the opportunity for every student to determine their own understanding of the learning target(s) that are being studied.
5. Based on the formative assessment information, we restructure our learning environment and teaching strategies to provide instruction, practice, and reinforcement as indicated on the formative assessment information.

Our Goal is for every student to take ownership of their own learning. Please take the time to ask your student what learning target they are working on in each of their classes and discuss with them their understanding of the target.



Reminder of Dates:

- **Wednesday, November 4, 2009 – Talent Show Auditions**
- **Friday, November 6, 2009 – 8th Grade Dance from 6:00 to 8:00**
- **Tuesday, November 10, 2009 – Model UN Field Trip**
- **Wednesday, November 11, 2009 – Play tryout begin**
- **Friday, November 13, 2009 – “Java with Josie”**
- **Thursday, November 19, 2009 – Career Fair for the 8th grade.**
- **Friday, November 20, 2009 – Talent Show**
- **Tuesday, November 24, 2009 – Picture Retakes**
- **November 25 – 27, 2009 – Thanksgiving Break**