



# Challenges and Celebrations of an Observation Classroom

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Taylor County High School  
Perry, Florida



# Taylor County High School Demographics

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- Rural School
- Student population fed by Title One Schools
- D School for three years
- Enrollment of approximately 750
- 72% White, 26% Black, Less than 2% other ethnicities
- 57% Free and Reduced Lunch



# Taylor County High School Demographics

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- 53% of Ninth Grade students scored Level One or Two
- 73% of Tenth Grade students scored Level One or Two



# Professional Development

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- 24% of Faculty Reading Endorsed
- 24% of Faculty CAR-PD Qualified
- 20% Completed FOR-PD
- Study group focused on the academic achievement of Black Adolescents
- Student and Faculty Book Clubs



# Purpose of an Observation Classroom

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To provide examples of effective literacy instruction that meets the needs of all students.

To provide examples of effective literacy instruction to teachers and administrators.



# Why An Observation Classroom?

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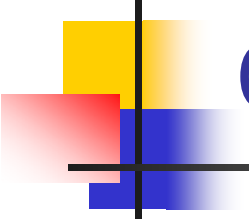
- To provide authentic/contextual professional development
- To provide a model that can be replicated in any classroom
- To self-sustain professional growth on site
- To provide opportunities for teachers to learn from each other



# Why an Observation Classroom?

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- To provide opportunities for the Reading Coach to assist and enhance effective literacy instruction in all content areas
- To build a learning community
- To promote collaboration



# Observation Classrooms Will Provide Opportunities for Teachers to Observe...

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- Integration and flow of a variety of reading based activities
- Flexible grouping
- Five essential elements of reading
- Engaging and supportive environment
- Print rich/information rich environment
- Explicit skill instruction



# Administration's Support

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- Scheduling
- Funding
- Release Time for Professional Development
- Expectation that Faculty Will Visit Observation Classroom



# Administration's Support

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- Plan for substitutes/classroom coverage for teachers to observe each other
- Be supportive and encouraging to sustain and support on-site professional development.



# FLaRE Coordinator's Support

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- Provide professional development
- Provide resources
- Collaborate with coach and instructor
- Provide on-site support
- Use the coaching process to further develop the reading coach's mentoring skills
- Demonstrate instructional practices



# Reading Coach's Support

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- Support and extend the craft of teaching through coaching of the observation classroom teacher.
- Connect theory and classroom practice
- Coordinate data collection to guide instruction
- Engage, influence and motivate staff to explore all areas of literacy



# Reading Coach's Challenges

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- Instructor's inexperience, particularly with reading instruction
- Students' reluctance
- Locating leveled text specific to the content for guided reading
- Classroom set up
- Finding time for collaboration



# Reading Coach's Celebrations

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- Literature circles
- Co-teaching
- Small group instruction
- Collaboration



# Instructor's Challenges

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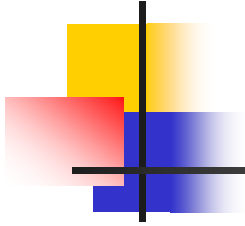
- Apprehension over covering social studies standards
- Planning time required for collaborative planning with coach
- Concern over lack of reading coursework
- Locating theme-related materials



# Instructor's Celebrations

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- Students' positive response
- Successful implementation of small group instruction
- Insight into the integration of reading and social studies
- Beginning reading endorsement
- Learning to use data to make instructional decisions



- Insert picture of students here – we don't have it yet



# Next Steps for Administration

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- Continue providing release time/funding for professional development
- Set up an observation classroom within each department
- Seek additional funding for resources to continue and expand observation classrooms



# Next Steps for Administration

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- Set up scheduled visits by other teachers to the observation classroom



# Next Steps for FLaRE Coordinator

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- Continue professional development
- Assist with expansion of observation classrooms
- Promote school-wide peer coaching
- Continue to provide resources



# Next Steps for Reading Coach

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- Expand observation of literacy instructional practices to other class periods
- Invite other teachers to develop observation classrooms



# Next Steps for Teacher

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- Continued professional development
- Incorporate literacy strategies into other social studies classes
- Locate a wider variety of literature that correlates with the content/curriculum
- Rely more on authentic literature to teach social studies



# Questions??????

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