1. I have been attending the ELA (English and Language Arts) Standards Meetings. Through these meetings I have been fortunate enough to deconstruct standards, create LDC curriculum lessons, grade writing pieces with peers, etc. and then return to the middle school and share what I have learned.
2. One program that I am the most excited about is Reading for Meaning (RFM). We were trained in August of 2011 as an entire staff on implementing this program. RFM is a “part of” Thoughtful Education. All teachers (including math, art, music, health, social studies, etc.) are implementing this program within their classes. After observing many teachers throughout the building teaching RFM lessons, I believe our students will benefit tremendously. The DOK level of questioning by teachers has increased due to this program. We are continuing as a staff to use other Thoughtful Education Techniques such as vocabulary code and questioning styles.
3. The language arts teachers have been attending curriculum standards meetings with 4 professors from the University of Louisville once a month. During these meetings we are given information that we can use immediately with our students. This was a grant awarded to Gallatin, Carroll and Trimble Counties. Therefore, we are able to collaborate with other counties to increase student and teacher awareness of the new common core standards.
4. G.C.M.S. piloted a computer researched based program called Readingplus with our RTI and 8th grade students last year. After utilizing this program we were able to purchase the program to be used by the entire middle school for the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years. This program has been well received by our students as well as our teachers.
5. We have identified areas of weakness within our school to include reading and writing.
6. We have discussed extensively how to close the gaps for our subject area.
7. We have implemented a 30-60-90 plan.
8. We continually discuss student evaluations including formative and summative assessments and then plan accordingly.
9. We currently assess through 3 Thinklink Tests, 3 On-Demand Writing Prompts, 3 Learning Checks, Summative Assessments, Unit Assessments, and Formative Assessments etc.
10. I have collaborated and taught with and model teaching with Language Arts teachers.
11. We met as a department to determine those students who are not performing at a proficient level in writing and/or reading.
12. We met as a department to determine those students who are not performing at a proficient level in writing and/or reading.
13. I have observed teachers working with student in their classrooms and reviewed those observations with the language arts teachers as well as discipline.
14. I have reviewed lesson plans with teachers and discussed with them things that I believe would help with language arts lessons.
15. I have encouraged the language arts teachers to be creative in their lessons because all students do not learn in the same manner.
16. We are currently using AIMS web probes/quizzes on Fridays with our RTI students. The progress of the students will be monitored through the probes/quizzes given.