

Exceptional Programs for Exceptional Learners Monthly Newsletter

“Good teaching is rocket science.”



Multi-Tier System of Supports...aka MTSS

Teacher goal for this month:

Diagnose needs with appropriate tools

The rumble has been going on for the last few years in education...Rtl. How will it affect education as we know it? How and when will it be implemented in our schools? How will it affect me as a teacher? And most of all, how will effect students and their performance?

been the need but knew it would be a difficult task to accomplish. With so much support available and lessons learned from many small and large districts, the steps are more directed for beginning schools and there are more resources and research available now.

needed to help every student meet their potential. With NCLB performance at a forefront in everyone's mind, this is our opportunity to look at data, and current resources and mindsets. We do have the power to change what is not working (or not working for some students) and help them grow.

Kansas no longer has to wait. MTSS, Kansas' system of Rtl, is here. Some school districts have been using this for years and the results are the evidence to show that the hard work of a systems change is worth the sweat.



There are many resources at the KS MTSS website located at <http://www.kansasmtss.org/>

MTSS is a systems approach to looking at the needs of each student for academics and behavior. Teachers have known that this has always

If you are asked by your district to take part in the planning of such an exciting event in your school then take advantage of it. This planning will require you to be honest with your staff and yourself in what resources you already have available to your students and what is still

What's in our future: Coffeyville and Independence will begin training on MTSS this year in hopes of getting at least parts of it into place by next year. Good luck in your journey towards MTSS!

Best Practice

Renee Arnold, second grade inter-related teacher at Community Elementary in Coffeyville has been doing beginning of the year assessment each year for reading, writing and math. This year she changed her math assessment to be hands-on and based on the Math Standards. Each student was assessed from the Pre-K level to second grade level and gaps in math were identified very easy with these assessments by Evan-Moor Corp. She now can easily identify areas of strengths and weakness and plans on progress monitoring the skill worked on each week.

Audio Books on Infnitec

Current technology is so wonderful for our students that need support in reading. For example with books on CD, books can be downloaded on to ipods etc, but the cost is extreme. I have had a very difficult time finding websites available to teachers that offer free downloads. I did find one though that we have access to and it's on Infnitec! Ok—here it is step by step...

Sign in at <http://www.myinfnitec.org/MyInfnitec/>

Once signed in go to the left hand side of the page to **Resources**, then choose **Educational Enrichment Activities**, then choose **Reading and Literacy Supports**, then choose **Project Gutenberg**, then in the search section you can search for author's and titles. Many classic novels can be downloaded for free on

this website.

For an example search for Mark Twain books. The list is long and are available for download. Good luck to you and take a deep breath that you have another resource for your students.

