



Lance Thompson Elementary School 821 Hawks Way, Argyle, Texas, 76226 (817)698.1800

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Transformation Video: [Link](#)

Lance Thompson Elementary is located in the far north central part of Northwest ISD. We are a fast-growing campus within the fastest-growing district in North Texas. Our campus is the new, collaborative design the district has adopted; in fact, it is the first school with a collaborative two-story floor plan. We opened in 2019 and required 6 portable classrooms in 2022-2023. Our campus split this year with the opening of a new campus. Currently, we have 619 students, 23% At Risk, 9% ELL, and 10% Economically Disadvantaged. With our quick growth, we are finding our demographics shifting with the intentional inclusion of more cultures and backgrounds into our Lance family. Our Campus Culture is built on a strong belief in inclusiveness and instilling pride in our school in all of our stakeholders. As a staff, we have had to put the work into our craft to help.

**The Work:** PI12 allowed me to look deeply at the effectiveness of my leadership and the collective efficacy of my staff. The Visioning Document was a tool that helped our Leadership Team focus on the important aspects of our staff growth. We looked specifically at Article II: The New Learning Standards- II.c, Article III: Assessments for Learning- III.b, and Article V: Organizational Transformation Va. Our district belief that “Kids come first,” is a belief we take to heart at Lance Thompson. We look at our students holistically, individually, and collectively; meaning these kids have lots of interest that we are cultivating, they have personal goals that we are helping them meet, and these kids belong to all of us. Our Leadership Team has worked to grow our campus, our teams, and our teachers in our craft.

**New Learning Standards:** Our campus helps students focus on their growth as individual people. It was important to our Leadership Team to allow the students to have choice and control over the growth they make throughout the school year. We looked at the aspects of learning that our students were able to control and we created opportunities for students to own their learning.

- Campus Culture Committee – Using data from our PBIS initiative from last year, ( i.e student surveys and teacher surveys), Emergent Tree district alignment training, our campus “Be” rules, and our SEL lessons we transformed our campus behavior plan to incorporate a more student-focused perspective. We started the year using Frayer models to discuss our “Be” rules; Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Fun to be around. These are posted in each grade level’s quads to remind students of how the grade defined the rule.
- Morning Meetings – We use our Morning Meeting time for students to learn and practice our Social Emotional Learning skills. Our Kindergarten and 1st grade have buddy classes that they meet with to build community and practice our skills across grade levels.
- Goal Setting – We developed goal-setting folders in our General Education classrooms that our students use to track their progress in their academic journey, as well as their personal goals. We started the year with a Goal Setting night where our students were able to present their goals to their families and develop a plan for the family to support the student’s goal at home. Our Art, Music, and PE classes, as well as our Gifted and Talented class, created Goal Setting Journals for students to set goals, journal, sketch, and make notes while in their enrichment classes. We have a middle-of-the-year update and end-of-the-year update, where we will be inviting our families to school for their children to present their progress on their goals.
- Staff book study on The Teacher Credibility and Collective Efficacy by Fisher, Frey, and Smith.

**Assessment for Learning:** When looking at how we assess students' learning, the question arose, “Do students know when they have mastered the learning objective?” Are the assessments measuring what we think they are



measuring? By focusing on Learning targets and varied assessments we can reflect on our teaching and assessments to ensure they are aligned and the students are reaching the objectives.

- Learning Targets – Teachers are using Learning Targets with success criteria to help students monitor their understanding of the concepts but also to ensure the teacher sees clear connections between the students' work and concept mastery. Students can explain what the teacher expects them to understand at the end of the lesson and many students are even able to share their personal goal for each lesson. For example, if the Learning Target states, "I will be able to identify different types of 2D shapes. I will know I understand the concept when I can identify the square, triangle, circle, and rectangle on the post-test. A student who wants to show they understand or has had an extension activity might also share that they will be able to identify a rhombus as well.
- Varied ways to show the student's level of mastery of a concept – Students use online resources to submit assignments; Seesaw, Google Classroom, Canvas, Short Constructed Responses, Conferences, small group instruction, exit tickets, and "Think, Pair, Share". These different ways to share their thinking play to students' need for variety, as well as, allow for choice within the classroom.

**Organizational Transformation:** As the first campus in the district with a collaborative open design, we pride ourselves in how we use our building to develop unique dynamic learning experiences. Lance staff has embraced the flexibility our building has which allows for flexible groupings, co-teaching, small groups working throughout the quads, and designing exciting learning experiences for students.

- Lion Libratory – Our library media- specialist leads STEM lessons each month for all students. The lessons range from Science Experiments to Makerspace lessons using recycled materials. The space is very diverse and it is easy to accommodate lots of different learning activities. Our students develop lessons to present to teachers with the request to lead their class in student-designed learning.
- Evening Learning Events – Our evening events have transformed into events that extend the learning from the classroom. We have Star Night where our 5th grade students create an outdoor nighttime family experience of star gazing with the UNT telescopes, nighttime animal hide and seek using flashlights, and student-led stations about different science concepts they have learned about so far. Multicultural Night has become one of our favorite events. It allows our students to share their family's culture with their peers. Goal Setting night was new for us this year and was met with fanfare as our parents were excited to hear what their child wanted to grow in this year and what the family could do at home to support their growth.
- Learning Celebration Days – Our campus participates on different days throughout the year. Starting with Fall Fest in the fall, a day of STEM activities with a Fall theme. The highlight this year was our "Lance Grands" hosting the photo booth and reading zone. Our students loved having our grandparents participating in the fun day of learning. Lance Day is a day of learning that honors our namesake, Lance Thompson. It is a day of learning that he would have enjoyed. Each year it is different, sometimes it is on campus, sometimes it is at our district Outdoor Learning Center, but it always includes outdoor learning and agriculture science learning to honor the legacy of the Thompson Family.

**Results:** Lance Thompson students are showing growth in their personal lives as well as their academic lives. We have seen a lower number of student office referrals, students showing a greater than expected growth in their MAPs scores, and teachers taking risks and trying new "best practices". Lance is building capacity in our students by empowering them to set their own goals. We are building capacity in our staff through reflection and intentional professional development based on data we are collecting in classrooms and teacher surveys.



December 6, 2023

This is to acknowledge my awareness and support of Lance Thompson Elementary's application for the 2023 School Transforming Learning Award with the Texas Principal Visioning Institute.

*Mark J. Foust*

12/6/23

*Dr. Mark Foust, Superintendent of Northwest ISD*

***Nominated by Melissa Webber, Principal, PI Cohort 11***

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