

PORTRAIT OF A TALBOT EDUCATOR INSIGHTS

September 2023

Hampton Township
School District



Calling All Bird Watchers

We are excited to present the first edition of our Bright Spots newsletter to celebrate innovation and achievement in teaching aligned with our Portrait of a Talbot competencies.

In this edition, we have the privilege of introducing you to Shanna Struble, second grade at Central Elementary, who recently designed a learning experience integrating the Portrait of a Talbot competencies. Shanna's lesson engaged her students and showcased her innovative approach to aligning the Portrait competencies with the curriculum.

Shanna started with the ELA Wonders series mentor text, "Little Flap Learns to Fly," as the foundation for the learning experience. This text invites students to evaluate details to determine key ideas in a story, a foundational skill for their academic journey.

Shanna took this lesson a step further. She integrated the Portrait of a Talbot competencies into the heart of her lesson. As a result, the lesson became a reading exercise and a holistic experience that nurtured student growth in these core competencies.

Central's Learning Courtyard, filled with various birds, became the backdrop for Shanna's teaching. Each bird was assigned a unique persona aligned to the competencies: Mindy Mindset, Caleb Collaboration, Percy Perseverance, Connor Communicator, Thelma Thinker, and Emily Empathy. The birds personified the competencies and came to life as the main characters of captivating stories.



Fostering Competencies, Igniting Growth

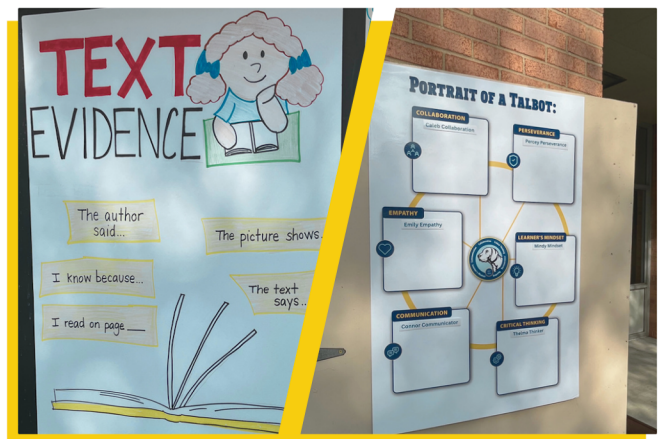
Through these stories, the students discovered the distinctive characteristics of each bird and where they might be located within the courtyard based on these attributes. Shanna encouraged collaboration by having students work in small groups, a testament to the Portrait of a Talbot's emphasis on teamwork and communication.

As the students read the descriptions of each bird, they identified key details in the passage, which provided clues to find that particular bird in the courtyard. They carefully recorded their findings in their Mystery Bird Journals, ensuring that their responses were supported by text evidence from the passage and accompanied by a picture of the bird in its courtyard habitat.

Shanna's lesson did not stop at comprehension; it delved deeper into empathy and self-awareness. After identifying the birds, students were asked to reflect on which bird they most related to and explain why. This simple yet profound exercise allowed them to connect with the attributes of the Portrait of a Talbot on a personal level. One student articulated, "I'm most like Percy Perseverance because I always keep my head up like him."

This self-reflection fostered empathy and reinforced the Portrait's competencies authentically and tangibly.

The culmination of this well-crafted lesson was naming a special blue and yellow Hampton bird. Much like its counterparts, this bird had to embody a descriptive adjective starting with the letter 'h' and embrace all the attributes of the Portrait of a Talbot. The result was "Hardy Hampton," a name that perfectly encapsulates the spirit of capability and excellence that defines our district. Shanna's innovative approach to integrating the Portrait of a Talbot into her lesson demonstrates her dedication to our students and her ability to align these competencies with our curriculum. Her lesson served as a powerful tool for her students to gain a



conceptual understanding of the Portrait while applying the comprehension skills they have been honing.

This is just one example of the incredible work within HTSD. As we continue celebrating our Portrait of a Talbot Bright Spots, we look forward to sharing more stories of excellence and innovation. Please contact Jen Hearn if you want a lesson featured in the next edition.

