



STACKED WINS

SEPTEMBER 2026

MARION TRANSFORMATION ZONE

September is when the routines took hold. Support moved into classrooms at Justice, students finished their first full CREATE2THINK unit, and the Transformation Zone's work became public. Each win below shows the work as students experienced it this month.

WE DID

PRIORITY 1 · TRANSFORMATION ZONE

Began collaborative inquiry in math and literacy.

WHAT THIS INVOLVED

At Justice and McCulloch, a Non-Evaluative Walk-Through System (NEWTS) was introduced to the instructional leadership teams. Teams used the tool to visit math and ELA classrooms to build greater consistency and effectiveness in providing teachers with feedback on their use of collaborative inquiry strategies. Teachers also learned new instructional strategies and collaborated with colleagues during PLC meetings with their instructional leadership teams.

HOW KIDS WILL BENEFIT

During PLC meetings, teachers shared that students enjoyed the new math discourse routines and reflected that student engagement and academic discourse were increasing as a result. NEWTS will provide teachers with meaningful feedback to strengthen the use and effectiveness of the collaborative inquiry strategies across classrooms, ensuring that all students have opportunities to explain their reasoning, engage in meaningful discussion, collaborate with peers, and develop greater conceptual understanding of content.

WE DID

PRIORITY 3 · JUSTICE

Students completed their first CREATE2THINK unit.

WHAT THIS INVOLVED

Students moved through the full CREATE2THINK learning cycle, from unpacking the problem and gathering information to developing, testing, refining, and explaining their solutions. Teachers facilitated the process using shared routines and materials while supporting collaboration, literacy, problem solving, and student reflection throughout the unit.

HOW KIDS WILL BENEFIT

Students will benefit by building confidence with the CREATE2THINK process and strengthening the skills they will use in future units. They will have repeated opportunities to collaborate, solve authentic problems, apply literacy skills, explain their thinking, revise ideas, and reflect on how their thinking changed throughout the process.

WE DID

CREATIVE WORK · TRANSFORMATION ZONE

Launched the Marion Transformation Zone website.

WHAT THIS INVOLVED

The Transformation Zone now has a public home at mariontz.com, bringing together an overview of Momentum Monday, Synergy with AI, and CREATE2THINK, a month-by-month record of implementation, reports, and video. Families, staff, board members, and partners have one place to see what the work is and how it is progressing.

HOW KIDS WILL BENEFIT

Students' learning experiences are visible beyond the classroom, and families can see what their children are doing each week, which makes it easier to talk about that learning and support it at home.