

Curriculum & Instruction Update

Fairfield City School District

Lesson Learned from our First Round of Testing

Congratulations!! We have made it through our very first round of PBA Assessments! First off, thanks to everyone for the hard work and patience as we ventured into this great unknown. As the EOY assessments are just around the corner (PARCC - EOY: **April 13th - May 15th** and OHIO - EOY: **May 4th - May 15th**), here are a few lessons learned that can help in the future...

1. Stay Calm - We got this!! Our students can sense our nervousness. It is important we don't make the students anxious by being nervous ourselves.

2. Patience and Deep Breathing - As with any technology based system, there will be glitches. As you become comfortable with the systems, troubleshooting will be easier, but your amazing BTC and our fantastic Technology Department are always willing to help!

3. Smart Sheets - These are our best friends! Be sure to review and have on hand your Smart Sheets. They are life savers in times of need.

4. Test Security - Computer State Testing is just as

high stakes as paper/pencil. Please remember security is of the highest importance.

5. Active Proctoring - It's important to be up and moving throughout the testing session to ensure all students are engaged. This helps with student engagement and eases nervousness.

6. We are in this TOGETHER - We have worked diligently to prepare our students for these assessments. The fruits of our labor will show! FCSD is an awesome team!!

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Reminders

- Follow us on Twitter:
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More Online Instructional Tools

Do you know that our school district has access to a plethora of online instructional tools to supplement curriculum? In a culture of apps, cloud storage, and high-stakes online testing, an extensive list of resources awaits to serve instructional needs. There are just a few of those resources:

www.brainpop.com and <https://jr.brainpop.com> - Geared to elementary through middle grade levels, Brainpop and Brainpop Jr. contain an extensive library of short videos covering a wide variety of topics. Recent updates allow users to do so much more with

these resources than ever before. Watch for a smart sheet that will be available in the near future!

www.discoveryeducation.com - A multimedia warehouse, formerly known as United Streaming, gives the ability to create classes, writing prompts, and digital poster boards plus assign quizzes.

www.infohio.org - Infohio is a digital library containing Ohio-aligned resources for educators, students, and parents.

www.khanacademy.org - Khan Academy offers practice exercises, instructional videos, and a personalized learning

dashboard that enables students to learn at their own pace in and out of the classroom. Content covered includes math, science, computer programming, history, and economics, just to name a few!

www.ohiorc.org - Ohiorc contains core content resources for all ages that are Ohio and Common Core-aligned.

Please note: This is a small list of instructional resources available. For more resources, visit the [Fairfield City Schools links page](#) or the Digital Tools and Resources folder found in FirstClass Tech Conference.

Did You Know?

In 1974, the Supreme Court case, *Lau v. Nichols*, resulted in the most important decision regarding our English Language Learners.

Fairfield City School's ESL population has grown 44% since 2011. We currently have 661 English Language Learners enrolled. The enrollment by buildings is below:

FHS:	55	Central	246
FFS:	26	East	41
FMS:	61	North	23
FIS:	97	South	75
		West	37

This court decision says a district that places English Language Learners in mainstream classrooms, regardless of their lack of language proficiency in English, is violating the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Below, is part of Justice William Douglass' quote, in writing the court's opinion:

"Under these state-imposed standards, there is no equality of treatment merely by providing students with the same facilities, textbooks, teachers, and curriculum; for students who do not

understand English are effectively foreclosed from any meaningful education.... We know that those who do not understand English are certain to find their classroom experiences wholly incomprehensible and in no way meaningful."

March 23-27, 2015 is our annual ESL Scholarship Jeans Week! There will be more information regarding this important week coming in the near future. Please "Save the Date" so, you can participate in Jeans Week on behalf of our ESL Scholarship Fund! Thank you!

The "A-ha!" Moment

The Standards for Mathematical Practice cover skills students should demonstrate at appropriate levels for grades K – 12. Standard 8 states that students need to *look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning*.

Integrating Standard 8 into classroom practice is not only a matter of planning for lessons that ask students to look for general methods and shortcuts. It also

requires teachers to attend to and listen closely to their students' "noticings" and "a-ha" moments and to follow those a-ha moments so that they generalize to the classroom as a whole. They continually evaluate the reasonableness of their intermediate results.

The following open-ended questions can help a teacher guide students as they seek to notice and use mathematical structure:

- Explain why that makes sense?
- How would you describe your method to us?
- How would you explain why it works?
- Does your answer seem reasonable?
- What have you learned about?
- How would this work with other numbers?
- Does it work all the time? How do you know?
- What do you notice when ...?

Visit **Inside Mathematics** at <http://tinyurl.com/ptqef72> for more information, including videos for various grade levels.