

# Curriculum & Instruction Update

## Fairfield City School District

### Welcome Back!

The 2015-2016 school year is up and running, and it is proving to be one of the best years yet. With all of the changes that have occurred in education over the past four years, it is great to start a school year with stability and excitement.

As we move into the second year of our current Ohio Improvement Process Plan, our main goal remains the same – The Fairfield City School District will earn an “A” in each of the state report card categories. Remember, we work to meet this goal with three main strategies.

1. All students will engage in a rigorous curriculum aligned to Ohio's Learning Standards.

2. All students will demonstrate mastery using assessments aligned to Ohio's State Tests. Assessment results will be utilized to inform instruction, support enrichment and intervention, and provide information to all stakeholders.
3. All teachers will provide students with instructional practices designed to meet the rigor of Ohio's Learning Standards.

The way in which we work towards these goals may look different throughout the district, but all of the work that is being done is very exciting. The following is a preview of some of the ways in which we are meeting kids' needs:

- SIOP Training (strategies for ESL students) for all Central staff
- Kagan across our entire district
- Youth Mental Health Training for 9-12 staff
- Jr. Great Books Training (rich questioning strategies) for K-6
- LETRS Training (early literacy) for our PK, K, and 1 teachers
- Orton Gillingham (literacy intervention) training for our elementary reading specialists

And that's just some of what we are choosing to do to meet the needs of our kids and reach our goal. What outstanding work! 2015-2016 is truly going to be a great year!

### Introducing Katie Pennell!



Instructional Specialist for Technology and Data.

After 22 years of teaching music, I am now working as an

I have enjoyed technology as long as I can remember. My husband and I had a Commodore 64 desktop computer with a separate floppy drive in 1989. In 1999, I completed my Masters of Education in Educational Leadership from Miami University.

Technology was a huge part of the Master's program, and I embraced it. Students always have been and always will be my main focus. I look forward to helping teachers strive to teach their students through the many benefits of technology.

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### Reminders

- Follow us on Twitter:  
@FCSDCurrInstruc



FCSD  
Office of Curriculum  
& Instruction  
4641 Bach Lane  
Fairfield, OH  
45014  
(513) 829-6300  
Fax: 858-7155

Rob Beidelman  
Debi Freimuth  
Laurie Gage  
Cheryl Geisler  
Laura Griffin  
Dan Jeffers  
Katie Pennell  
Katie Pospisil  
Debbie Rulon  
Jennie Thompson  
Lori Wegman  
Lani Wildow



# Positive Adjustments to Ohio's Testing Plan

As we are sure you all have already heard ... the Ohio General Assembly directed the Ohio Department of Education to transition to new assessments during the 2015-2016 school year in mathematics and English language arts. Ohio will be utilizing the same platform as the online social studies and science assessments did last year, AIR (American Institutes for Research). Within the new law, it also states that the assessments will be:

- Shorter than tests given last school year;
- Administered once per year in a single testing window;
- Given during the second half of the school year, with the exception of HS blocked classes that meet first semester; and
- Provide results no later than June 30<sup>th</sup> of each school year. Third grade reading will return no later than June 15.

**Testing Windows:** The buildings will determine the ACTUAL testing days within the window, stay tuned to your building testing coordinator for your building's specifics:

- ◊ Fall blocked classes - HS - Nov. 30 to Jan. 8 (15 consecutive days will be selected).
- ◊ Third grade reading (fall) - Nov. 30 to Dec. 11 - FCSD **selected Dec. 1-7**
- ◊ English language arts - GR 3-8 and HS - April 4 to 29 (15 consecutive days will be selected).
- ◊ Math, science, social studies - GR 3-8 and HS - April 4 to May 13 (15 consecutive days will be selected).

## Grades/Areas Tested:

Grade	English Language Arts	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
3	X	X		
4	X	X		X
5	X	X	X	
6	X	X		X
7	X	X		
8	X	X	X	
9 (Typically)**	X – English 9	X – Math I		X – American History
10 (Typically)**	X – English 10	X – Math II	X – Biology	
11 (Typically)**	OGT – If not yet passed	OGT – If not yet passed	OGT – If not yet passed	American Government (if enrolled) OGT – If not yet passed
12 (Typically)**	OGT – If not yet passed	OGT – If not yet passed	OGT – If not yet passed	American Government (if enrolled) OGT – If not yet passed

\* All tests will be taken online, except for students with specific and special circumstances.

\*\* Students are expected to take the end-of-course exam within the course they are enrolled. If a 9<sup>th</sup> grade student is enrolled in Math II and Biology, he or she is to take the Math II and Biology end-of-course exam.

## Office 365 is Here!

All certified staff should now have an account set up in Office 365. This suite of apps will help you share files and collaborate with your peers. It should be used as a storage place for the files you intend

to share with others or access from home. We will have PD sessions throughout the year revolving around this product. We will also be sending out 'Smart Sheets' to help along the way. These sheets will

eventually be shared through Office 365 but can found in FirstClass for now.

Firstclass>Conferences>Tech Conference>Office 365 & 2013

Stay tuned for more info to come!