

# Curriculum & Instruction Update

## Fairfield City School District

### Are You Connected and Informed?

Even though the rate of educational change has slowed a bit, it is still a true statement to say, "The only thing that is constant in life is change." It can be hard to keep up with all that is going on around us.

Here are a few sites that are bookmarked on my browser

and should be on yours, too, so that you can stay connected and informed:

- Information about all of Ohio's State Tests is updated often. Check out all sorts of testing information [here](#).
- Want to brush up on FIP strategies or learn more about value-added? Click [here](#).
- Need some ideas to re-energize your PBIS? [Here](#) you go.
- Staying in touch with local instructional news is easy on Twitter @FCSDCurrInstruc.



Groundbreaking of new FCSD schools opening in 2017-2018.

### Email Etiquette

Please remember these important tips when creating email at FCSD:

**School email is for school business.** ALL of our email is backed-up and available to the public with a public records request. Every email you forward is also archived once for every address to which you send it. Please be sure that school email is being used for school business.

**Reply Sender not Reply All.** Please make sure your Reply button is set to 'Reply Sender'. This setting is in the Edit menu under 'Preferences'. Go to the 'Messaging' tab and make sure that 'Reply Sender' is in the Reply preference drop down box.

**Respond within 24 hours.** It is okay to reply that you are looking into the question and that you will get back to them soon, but please reply in a timely manner.

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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

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



## Marcia Tate's 20 Strategies

**Want to find more ways to make teaching and learning fun?** How about finding ways to decrease behavior problems while at the same time increasing student achievement?! Over the next few months, be sure to check out this section featuring “**20 Instructional Strategies That Take Advantage of How the Brain Learns Best**” (Marcia Tate). These strategies are tightly aligned to Marzano’s research and are packaged in an easy-to-use format.

- 1) **Writing** - Research has shown that as educators, we get the most bang for our buck when students write, specifically in long-hand and not on a computer. The brain remembers what it writes, which is why people who make lists often remember.
- 2) **Storytelling** - Using the auditory modality (with the frontal lobes) to follow a story’s plot lets the brain relax and retain new material. Having material connected with a beginning, middle, and end assists the brain in remembering. Who doesn’t love a good story?!
- 3) **Mnemonic Devices** - Connecting content using acronyms: ROY G. BIV, My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Nachos—*need we say more?*
- 4) **Visuals** - Reinforce the learning: pictures/posters on the walls (referenced, not just displayed), videos, SmartBoards, writing on the board/document camera...*a picture is worth a thousand words!*
- 5) **Movement** - Getting students of all ages up and moving increases procedural and muscle memory (one of the strongest memory systems). Keeping students actively engaged during learning goes a long way, hopefully with remembering the information long after the test.

[Click here to check out FCSD teachers and students putting these strategies to use.](#)

## What are Interactive Notebooks?

How often do you ask questions like this in your classroom? “Does everyone understand?” “Do you have any questions?” “Does that make sense?” “OK?” Those are common questions asked in classrooms. When you check for understanding, however, it truly should be formative, systematic, and planned. You should not wait until the end of a unit when it is time for the summative assessment. Too often, we accept the answers of a few to serve as a check for understanding of all students. And, if you have any English Language Learners in your classroom, the probability of them being one of those few students asking or answering questions is highly unlikely. In fact, if they are a Level 1 or Level 2

in their language acquisition, many of those students do not want to draw attention to themselves in case they say something incorrectly. So, how can we help to solidify English Language Learners’ understanding of concepts we are teaching? Could other students use an alternative way to help them understand content concepts? One idea you may want to try is an Interactive Notebook! Watch this [video](#) to see examples of Interactive Notebooks. (*You do not need the sound unless, you want to hear to the background music.*) This can engage all students, not just those who are learning English, with the content you teach in your classrooms.

### Foldables Workshop Opportunity

A few weeks ago, two high school science teachers attended a workshop that has transformed their Biology classes! If you want to learn, firsthand how Interactive Notebooks can change structured note-taking forever, ask Trista Allen or Megan Thornhill, FHS Biology teachers. Here is an opportunity for you to learn more about Interactive Foldable Notebooks. We cannot speak directly to this workshop, but it may be worth looking into if this note-taking idea intrigues you.

[REGISTER](#)