

Curriculum & Instruction Update

Fairfield City School District

Welcome to a New Year!

For those of you who have been in education a while, you are probably used to the resolutions that occur for educators. They occur twice each school year – once at the beginning of a school year and again at the start of a new calendar year. While the rest of the world has resolutions about weight loss, managing money, and eating healthy at the start of a new calendar year, educators also have resolutions related to the classroom.

Many educational resolutions may look something like the following:

- I will find a way to stay more organized.
- I am going to be more efficient with grading.
- I am going to be more creative and engaging in my classroom.
- I will find ways to utilize my co-teacher more.

Along with our personal resolutions, we need to support and help each other as we work towards our professional goals. If you have ever said any of the statements above, you may find the following links helpful.

Organization - <http://edtechreview.in/news/2207-teacher-organization-apps>

Grading - <http://www.weareteachers.com/blogs/post/2014/08/08/6-ways-to-save-time-on-grading-essays>

Engagement - <http://www.edutopia.org/student-engagement-resources>

Co-teaching - <http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/current-issue.aspx>



What is it like to have a visit from a Kagan Coach?

I know many of you are wondering what it is like to have a Kagan Coach come to your classroom. I can honestly say that it is fun. I know, strange word to describe a stranger coming into my classroom and giving me pointers on my Kagan structures in action. But, it really was fun. First, I was able to choose the structure, date, and time for my visit. I prepared my structure and worked with my students to be sure they were comfortable with what I chose. I chose Shoulder Partners/RallyRobin. Understanding the 4 Basic Principles of

Kagan, P.I.E.S., I knew I could achieve all four of these principles with my lesson and structure. Ok, I had my structure chosen. I knew the students were comfortable with what I was doing. Now, it was time for the visit.

I had forewarned my students that someone was coming into our class to check out what and how I was teaching. This way they were not worried. When the gentleman came to my door, I realized he was the Kagan Coach who taught me Day 1. In addition to the coach, there was a district escort. (In my case, an Instructional

Specialist from district office. It could be an administrator.) Good, someone I knew! The Kagan Coach observed my lesson. At the end, he wrote down some ideas that could enhance my lesson. He told me he was thrilled to be in my class. We discussed briefly his ideas before he left my room. He thanked me and left. No worries.

The Kagan Coaches are vested in Kagan and vested in our district. They want to help you. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. You are going to have a lot of fun, too!

— Katie Pennell

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Reminders

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Local Report Card Coming Soon....

The Ohio Department of Education will soon be releasing Local Report Cards for all school districts across the state. What does “soon” mean? Well that is yet to be determined. However, there are a few things that we know about the report cards that will be coming to our schools and district very soon.

- Schools and districts will be measured in the following categories:
 - ⇒ Achievement
 - ⇒ Gap Closing
 - ⇒ Progress (Value-Added)
 - ⇒ Graduation Rate
 - ⇒ K-3 Literacy
 - ⇒ Prepared for Success

- The cut score for the 3rd grade Reading OAA and the 10th grade OGT tests will be 80% (up from 75%).
- The Ohio Department of Education now publishes rankings of schools and districts for a variety of categories that are available to all stakeholders. This information is available shortly after report cards are released. Below is some information from last year’s report card.
 - ⇒ Out of the 881 districts receiving a performance index score in the state of Ohio for 2014, Fairfield

ranked 290th for Performance Index.

- ⇒ Fairfield City School District ranked 413th out of 671 districts in Value-Added (Progress) for the 2014 report card.
- ⇒ Fairfield’s overall gifted ranking for 2014 was 216th out of the 560 Ohio districts that were in the calculation.

To stay current on Local Report Card information, please be sure to bookmark the online Ohio School Report Cards linked below.

Ohio School
Report Cards

The new School-Based Health Clinic is opening this month for all staff and students!!! Fairfield City School District is partnering with Primary Health Solutions for the first fully-integrated suburban school-based program in the U.S. **This is a HUGE step toward removing non-academic barriers for our students and their families!** The Health Center is located at 211 Donald Drive and is open to all students, their families, and employees. To read more on our district website about the School-Based Health Center or to obtain consent forms ... [click here](#).

Edcite Offers Interactive Digital Practice

Are you looking for a resource to help prepare your students for Ohio’s online State Tests? Look no further than Edcite.com, a new and **FREE** K-12 platform dedicated to engaging students with rigorous, authentic, interactive testing practice aligned to the standards. It features a teacher-curated library of assignments that can be edited, easily shared and collaborated; create-your-own assignments with

45 different question types (including drag and drop, image labeling, and text selection); easy distribution to students/groups for differentiation; flexibility for practice or assessment; and automated grading and tracking. Check out some of the links below for more information (links are safe). More SmartSheets for this exciting resource can be found in the Tech Conference on FirstClass.



Summer professional development will occur August 8th – 11th. We are restructuring the training this year. Stay tuned for more details!

- Edcite Summary:
<http://ufiles.edcite.net/help/Edcite.Teacher1Pager.pdf>
- Basic Guide for Teachers:
<http://ufiles.edcite.net/help/Edcitebasicsguide.pdf>
- Edcite “How To” Videos:
<https://www.edcite.com/help/helpvideos.html>