

Curriculum & Instruction Update

Fairfield City School District

State Testing is Right Around the Corner...

Spring brings warmer weather, sunnier skies, and state testing! Here is a snap shot of what is to come with state testing in just a few weeks.

- Ohio English Language Proficiency Assessment - OELPA (February 29–April 22). This year the OELPA assessment will be given to all ELL students on-line and

will contain four sections: Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking.

- Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities - AASCD (February 22–April 15). The AASCD will be administered by grade band (3-5, 6-8, HS).

- Ohio Computer Based Assessment - OCBA - English Language Arts (April 4–29) and Math, Science, and Social Studies (April 4–May 13).

Please contact your Building Test Coordinator for your building's specific testing schedule.

Grade Level and Tested Area for AASCD and OCBA

GRADE	ELA	Math	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	
HS	X	X	X	X

ODE has put together a number of resources for our students and test administrators.

Please take some time to review these resources with your students. Your BTC will also be hosting meetings and going

through the material listed, but it is always a good idea to get a head start to ensure student mastery.

You will be able to locate student practice resources, administration manuals, and guidance

documents, along with the test administrator practice site and user guides, by visiting the ODE Ohio State Tests 2015-2016 Resources on the web:

<http://oh.portal.airast.org/ocba/resources/>

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Reminders

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Take Advantage of How the Brain Learns Best

(20 Strategies by Marcia Tate)

Over the last few months some of Marcia Tate's instructional strategies (closely aligned to Marzano's work) were highlighted in the Curriculum Newsletter. Read below to learn about 5 more strategies, and be sure to watch the new video (linked below) showcasing Fairfield classrooms in action utilizing the 5 strategies.

Strategies 11-15

Graphic Organizers: Graphic organizers are effective visuals for addressing both the left and right hemispheres of the brain. The left hemisphere can read the words while the right hemisphere takes in the pictures. They are pictorial representations of linear ideas and show the connectedness of content. Using graphic organizers to teach difficult or complicated content will help students organize their thinking and promote problem solving (M. Tate). **Examples:** fishbone diagram, Venn diagram, sequence chart, mind maps, ranking ladder, agree-disagree chart, pie chart, time line, semantic map, word web. www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/

Drawing: Teachers should put the visual-spatial intelligence to work by allowing students to draw what they are learning in class and also incorporate simple drawings into presentations. The brain also remembers what it writes down, which is why people who make lists have a better chance of remembering (M. Tate). Drawing pictures and pictographs is one activity that

aids in the nonlinguistic (or mental) processing of information (Marzano, 2007). **Examples:** illustrate meaning of key vocabulary, illustrate major concept, work with a partner or group to depict a scene, draw a graphic organizer or mind map that shows how ideas are connected, create a wall mural to review or symbolize understanding

Humor: When students are laughing with each other, they are not laughing at each other. Laughter not only produces T-cells, which strengthen the immune system and improve the quality of one's health, but it puts students' brains in a state for optimal learning. Integrate humor with jokes that are appropriate for the content you are teaching. Riddles work well also. If you aren't into jokes or riddles, try posting a content-related cartoon (M. Tate). www.andertoons.com/search-cartoons/teacher

Discussion: In many classrooms students are discouraged from talking with one another at any time and yet, the brain research

is telling us that students learn 90% of what they say or discuss as they complete an activity and 90% of what they teach to others (M. Tate). **Examples:** parking lot, open-ended questioning, Socratic Seminar, brainstorming, cooperative groups, Shoulder Talk, Affinity Mapping. www.cultofpedagogy.com/speaking-listening-techniques/

Games: One way to get students laughing is to play games. Students not only learn more when playing a game but their participation in class and their motivation for learning increases (M. Tate). Games must focus on academic content if they are going to represent a way to review that content (Marzano, 2007). **Examples:** charades (guess key concepts or terms), Bingo, students can develop a game, online sites have templates for televised games (*Jeopardy!*, *Pyramid*, *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*). www.teachhub.com/engaging-classroom-games-all-grades

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

What's Going on in the Fairfield City School District?

- Intense planning for the 2017-2018 school year is well underway. In addition to planning for 3 new buildings, a Middle School Redesign Team has been formed to develop the instructional program which will be offered at both Creekside and Crossroads Middle School.
- At FFS, there is also a Redesign Team collaborating with their BLT to make plans for the new building.
- Our new Health Center is open for business! Be sure to talk with your building administrators or nurse to see how your students, your family, and you can utilize this fantastic facility.