

Fairfield's C&I Update

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Office of Curriculum and Instruction

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Spring Break is Coming ... What are Your Plans?

Spring break is coming, and this means it's time for a true break from your school-day routine. I hope you are able to take some time to truly relax and rejuvenate. Check out the 21 suggestions below from Stacy Tornio of *We Are Teachers*, and see if you can do some of them over the break. You have worked hard. Now take some time to enjoy!

1. Read a (whole) book.

You spend a lot of time encouraging your students to read, so now it's time to take your own advice. Start at the library, in the grown-up section, and browse for an hour to find something that really grabs you.

2. Plan nothing.

Imagine a day when you not only have no set plans or commitments, you also have no expectations. True, this is not the path to world domination, but it sure does feel nice every once in a while.

3. Sleep (or at least stay in bed) until noon.

Nineteen-year-olds are naturals at this, but you might have to put in some effort. If you wake up earlier than you want, just grab a book and snuggle deeper into your pillow.

4. Buy something for your *other* rooms.

You're always buying stuff for your classroom, so challenge yourself to buy something for a room in your own house today. It doesn't even have to be educational or uplifting. It could just be gorgeous.

5. Bake a three-layer lemon cake.

Or, you know, bran muffins. Anything you and your friends or family will gobble up. An afternoon of baking is always good for the soul.

6. Road trip!

Pile your kids in the car, or grab a friend; and then hit the road! You don't have to know where you're headed, because sometimes the thrill is in the unexpected.

7. Ask a non-school BFF on a date.

Really good friends keep us happy, grounded, and sane. Reach out to one of yours, and catch up over coffee or lunch.

8. Scatter rose petals, blast heavy metal, and dance in the streets; or write your congresswoman.

Whether it's little or big, do something out of the ordinary, something that surprises the people around you.

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9. Pretend it's the 18th Century. (Or even just 1980.)

We're all guilty of getting attached to social media and our phones. Turn off your access for the afternoon. Focus on making, talking, singing, walking, whatever. Separating yourself from screens will really make you appreciate the world in a different way.

10. Field trip ... in your own town!

When's the last time you toured the local train museum or visited the courthouse? Make it a point to go to at least one interesting public place, while you're on break.

11. Project runway.

Clothes make the man/woman, haven't you heard? Go shopping! Bonus points if you can put together an outfit that works for both school and a night out.

12. Shop for the ultimate comfort shoe.

It's not going to be easy, but it's a challenge worth taking. Grab your teacher BFF and hit the shoe store to find a shoe that is both comfortable and cute. It can be done!

13. Don't scream, eat ice cream.

Find one of those old-fashioned, hand-dipped ice cream parlors and treat yourself. It's like a vacation in a cone.

14. Go rustic.

Pack a picnic, and take a long hike. Nature relaxes the soul and brightens the spirit. Bonus points: Bring a sketchbook and pencil to draw some of the birds or trees you encounter. Later in the semester, pulling out that sketchbook and looking at your drawings and notes will relax/delight you all over again.

15. Catch up on life.

We all have those things on our list that we just never seem to get to—putting together that photo book from last year's vacation, or emailing your friends from college. Knock out a couple of items on your eternal to-do list, and then get back to relaxing.

16. Start planning (and fantasizing about) summer vacation.

You should always be planning your next vacation. So while on this mini-break, starting looking ahead to summer.

17. Throw a fake dinner party.

You definitely deserve a night off from planning and cooking dinner. Order take-out, serve it on the good china, and never let them see you sweat.

18. Go for a massage.

You won't find a better way to relax than a 60-minute massage. You might want to splurge and go for a full 90 minutes! Either way, this should be high on your priority list of things to "accomplish" during spring break.

19. Call your great-uncle Henry and your baby sister.

We all have family or friends who don't live close by. Yet they are really important in our lives. Take time to call one or two of those people during break.

20. Organize yourself mentally.

The hustle and bustle of life can take over so easily, making it confusing about what's really important. Take time to hit the reset button and get back to the things that really matter.

21. Be like a tree sloth.

During the work week, it feels like it's always go-go-go! So now is the time to slow way down, all the better to appreciate the little things, the big picture and your life.

Lani

Literacy Lowdown

Literacy Event

**Nancy Frey,
Author**

FHS - PAC

April 25, 2019

**5:00 - 6:30
PM**

**CONTACT:
Lauren Sweeney
Jen Lewis
Laura Griffin**

First, a HUGE THANK YOU to you all!

We completed our first audit for the Striving Readers Grant! WHEW!!!

Rachel Lang, an Adolescent Literacy Specialist with the State Support Team, spent a day with us talking about the data we have collected, going through our literacy grant components, and even observing numerous classes. She was excited to see that we are addressing all areas of our grant and enjoyed speaking with the students about their learning opportunities. Thank you all for your hard work and great efforts to help our striving readers!

Our current book study, *Visible Learning* by Fisher, Frey and Hattie, is underway and 40+ teachers in our district are endeavoring to implement more strategies to accelerate student learning. According to John Hattie,

different strategies have varying effect sizes. If a strategy has an effect size of 0.40, it is said to be highly effective.

One of the strategies suggested is to use a cloze passage as a prior knowledge activity, which has an effect size of 0.65. "In a cloze passage, the text should have around 250 words, with every fifth word removed. The first and last sentences are left intact to provide context to the reading. Students are instructed to

"Independent level": 60% or more correct answers.

"Instructional level": 40-59% correct.

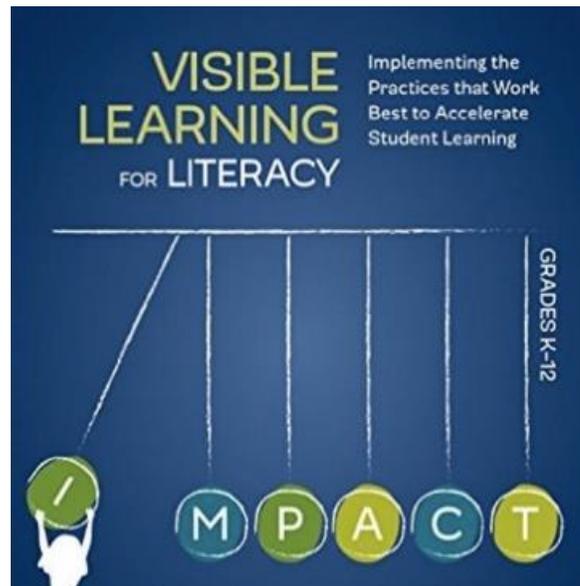
"Frustration level": 39% or below correct. (p. 44)

background knowledge for your students to be successful. Theresa Lynch and Michelle Edwards created and implemented a cloze passage for their study of the Fertile Crescent, but used it as a formative assessment. Great job ladies! Way to try a new strategy, and even give it your own spin!!!

If you would like to hear more about how you can implement Visible Learning strategies in your classroom, Nancy Frey will be speaking in our own PAC center at the high school on April 25 from 5:00-6:30 PM. If you would like to

attend, please reach out to Lauren Sweeney, Jen Lewis or Laura Griffin.

Keep up the great work everyone!!!



read and fill in each blank with the word they believe is missing" (p. 44). Then, compare the students' results against the original text.

This helps a teacher know if you need to build the

I wish my teacher knew ...

- I love drawing stuff. I want to be an artist. (Central 2nd grade student)
- My family loves her and wants me to stay with her. (Central 2nd grade student)
- Not just me, but sisters and me, live in hotels and my father's shop, which makes it difficult to eat even one whole meal a day or study for a test. But not that that's an excuse. It's just hard since my dad works a lot. But he tries his best, especially with four daughters. (Central 5th grade student)
- When I'm at school and my parents come, I don't want them to embarrass me in front of my teacher. (Central 2nd grade student)
- I wish my teacher knew Spanish. (Central 2nd grade student)
- I wish my teacher knew that I am scared for the 6th grade. Only because it is a big change, and there is a lot more stuff to worry about. (Central 5th grade student)
- I love to read books everywhere I go. My favorite book is "Daphne's Book". It's so good! I love the series "So Cute it Hurts". I check them out of the library, and they are in the "teen zone". I read the first book, and it was so good. (Central 5th grade student)
- My sister's gums are infected, and she cries at night. I wish my sister's gums were not infected, so sometimes I cry. I want my sister to be better. (Central 2nd grade student)
- I love her a lot. She is the best teacher ever. I love her so much. She is so kind. She treats people the same. I hope she knows that I love her a lot. Like last year's students, I will always remember her. She might be strict sometimes, but that's what I like about her. (Central 5th grade student)
- Tests make me feel stressed and like my head is going to explode. I feel like my body is going to explode. (Central 2nd grade student)
- I will always remember them, and they are my favorite teachers. They helped me learn and increased my knowledge. They also helped me believe in my dreams. (Central 5th grade student)

I'm glad my teacher knows...

- I am shy. (Central 2nd grade student)
- I am from Vietnam. (Central 2nd grade student)
- About what's going on at home. (Central 2nd grade student)
- I always try my best on everything I do, even when it's hard. (Central 5th grade student)
- How to correctly say my name, because a lot of people say my name wrong every day. And if I don't know them very well, I am too shy to correct them. (Central 5th grade student)
- I am a Jehovah's Witness, and I don't celebrate holidays. I am also glad my teacher knows that. She is the best teacher ever! (Central 5th grade student)

Do you think you might be missing emails? ...

You might have the 'Focused Inbox' feature turned on in your Outlook Account. With this feature on Outlook monitors emails you choose to read/not read and 'learns' what should be your email focus. It places important email in the 'Focus' box and the remaining email in the 'Other' box. With this feature active, you need to remember to check your 'Other' inbox periodically.

It is strictly a matter of preference whether or not you choose to use this feature. If you don't want to use it, this is how you turn it off:

Note: It can only be turned on/off from the **Outlook Browser version**.

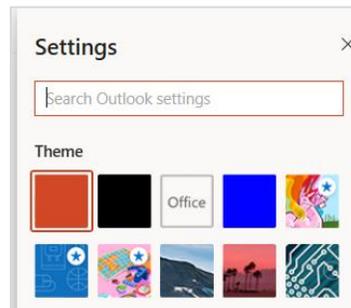
Login to O365.

Choose 'Outlook'.

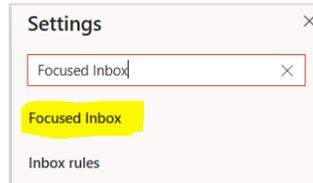
Click the 'Settings' button in the top right corner.



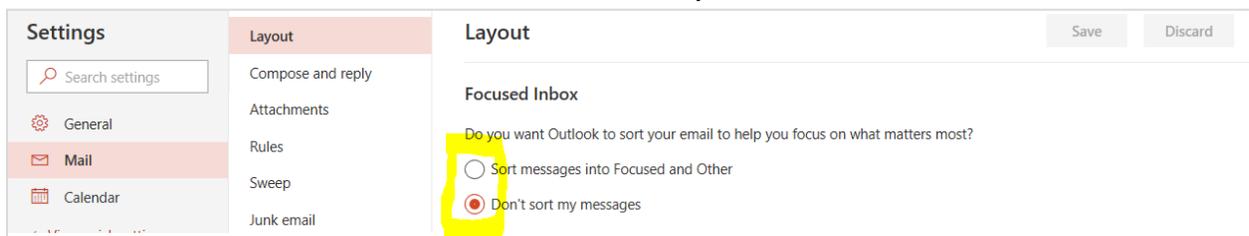
Enter 'Focused Inbox' in the search bar.



Click on 'Focused Inbox'.



Select the button or your choice.



Click 'Save'.

As always please don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions!



Around the District...

