

# Fairfield's C&I Update

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## What does student engagement really look like?

Last month, administrators from across our district visited classrooms to better understand what student engagement truly looks like. As our administrators share this experience with teachers in their buildings, it important we all look at student engagement through the same lens.

Student engagement begins by asking yourself two critical questions.

- Are students hiding in the classroom?
- Are students doing each other's work?

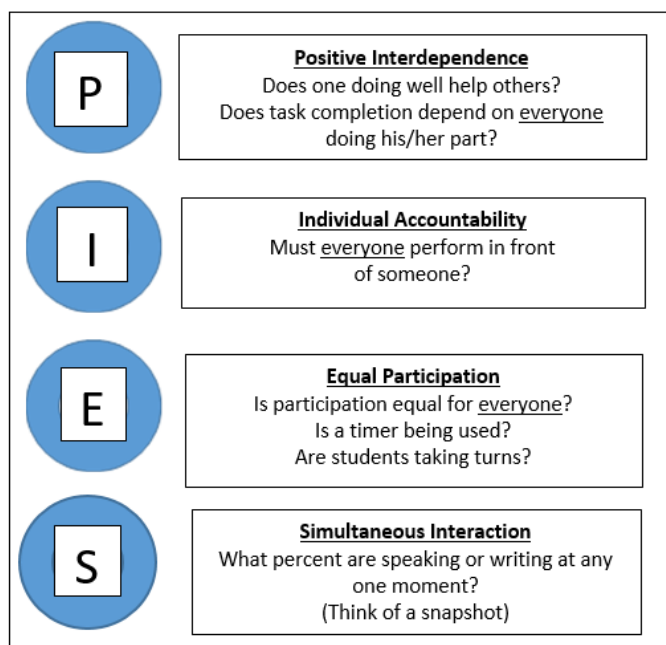
If you can answer "yes" to either of these questions, then student engagement might be something to consider.

Student engagement can be improved by using any instructional strategy which has all component of the PIES principal. The Ohio Writing Project (OWP), Kagan Structures, differentiated lessons, stations, technology, etc. are all examples of instructional strategies which, when used appropriately, include all aspect of PIES thus ensuring 100%

student engagement. As we use these strategies, we must keep the PIES principles in mind to ensure ALL students are meaningfully engaged with the content.

As we all know, students who are engaged are students who are learning. Keep focusing on PIES each and every day, and our students will thank you!

*Lani*



## MTSS for grades 6-12

Part of the work for our Striving Readers' Grant is to develop and implement an MTSS program in our secondary schools. MTSS stands for Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, and it is a framework used to provide targeted support to struggling students. It screens all kids and aims to address both academic and behavioral issues. The goal of MTSS is to intervene early, to be proactive rather than reactive in the educational process. Many of our secondary teachers have been trained by Margaret Searle to create this

system in each of the secondary schools.

This system will allow us to come together teachers to discuss strengths and opportunities for students, analyze situations of success and inconsistency, and then strategize interventions and set a plan in place to help the students begin to make progress.

Another group of staff member will be receiving MTSS training during the month of November. It will be important after this training for everyone who has been trained to put their heads together

to create a system which makes sense for their building. While we know no one is an expert in this process yet, it is important we take a risk and get this process developed.

At our middle schools, we have our literacy coaches, Jen Lewis and Lauren Sweeney to lead this charge. Feel free to email, text, or call as they would love to help you. If you are at FFS or FHS, you can still feel free to reach out to these ladies.

Thank you for dedicating your time and efforts for the benefit of our students!

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*November 6<sup>th</sup> is a teacher in-service day from 8:00 – 11:45. The rest of the day is lunch and record keeping.*



## Fairfield Business Advisory Council Ready for Action

The new members of the Fairfield Business Advisory Council (BAC) are excited and ready to make things happen during the 2018-19 school year.

The BAC exists to advise and provide recommendations to the Fairfield City Schools Board of Education on matters

related to employment skills, changes in the economy and job market, and types of employment in which future jobs are most likely available. In order to accomplish this goal, the BAC will meet quarterly to discuss how to assist our students and their families.

There are ten BAC members, including six business members. Our first goal is to think about basic employability skills along with how these skills can be integrated into the K-12 curriculum and then communicated out to our families.

Keep your eyes out for more information.

## Literacy Corner

### Did you know...?

- Literacy improves creative and critical thinking skills, informed decision making, personal empowerment, as well as civil and social participation.
- Literacy is more than reading and writing. It also includes problem solving, communication skills, numeracy and technology proficiency.
- There's a huge correlation between literacy and crime — 70% of inmates can't read above a fourth grade level, while 85% of juvenile delinquents are functionally illiterate.
- According to a study conducted in April 2017 by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Institute of Literacy, 32 million adults in the U.S. can't read. That's 14% of our population.
- Teenage girls between the ages of 16 to 19 who live at or below the poverty line and have below average literacy skills are 6 times more likely to have children out of wedlock than girls their age who can read proficiently.
- In 2017, Ohio's black students had an average score that was 28 points lower than that for white students on the NAEP assessment.

## Around the District..

