

FCSD

Department of Curriculum and Instruction



Mandy's Message

It's hard to believe it is the middle of October already! How in the world has the first quarter gone by so fast? I want to start by saying thank you to everyone for extending such a warm Fairfield welcome as I begin this new journey. I promise you will not have to look at my picture every time you open the department newsletter. I just thought including this picture would help you put a face with my name. Before joining the Fairfield family, I spent 15 years as a high school history teacher at Taylor High School in Three Rivers Local School District and I loved every minute of it (well...maybe *most* every minute...let's be real...teaching can be tough). I spent one year as the teacher leader of curriculum, instruction, assessment, and professional development in the district while still teaching AP US History. After that, I became the district's Chief Academic Officer and served in that position for four years. As I start my twenty-first year in education as a Fairfield Indian, I look forward to serving all of you in hopes that this truly is your *best year ever!*



Excellence



**Preparation for
Life**



**Opportunities for
All**

[Click here to view the 2019 Report Card Presentation](#)

The presentation was given at BOE meeting on 10/3/19

[Click here to view the 2018-2019 Quality Profile](#)

UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL LEARNING EVENTS

Kagan Cooperative Learning Day 2

WHEN

Tuesday, Dec. 10th, 8am-3:30pm

WHERE

**4641 Bach Lane
Fairfield, OH**

MORE INFORMATION

Interested in attending? Click [HERE](#) to register in PD Express.

Kagan Cooperative Learning Day #3

WHEN

Wednesday, Dec. 11th, 8am-3:30pm

WHERE

**4641 Bach Lane
Fairfield, OH**

MORE INFORMATION

This event had to be rescheduled due to low registration numbers. If you are interested in Kagan Cooperative Learning Day #3, please RSVP through [PD Express](#) as soon as possible. Cooperative Learning Day #4 will be offered later in the year.



The Science Scoop

Revised Model Curriculum is out! The content changes are mostly just tweaks, but the significant shift is in instruction. The Revised Ohio Standards emphasize the nature of science, and the science cognitive demands as much as the content statements. Testing on these revisions will not begin until fall 2020. You can find the revised documents [HERE](#).

Contact [Lori Wegman](#) with questions!

Engage with Escape Games!

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction has 12 Breakout EDU kits that you can check out to use with your students! These kits include the boxes, multiple kinds of locks, and various other clue-creation pieces such as invisible ink and UV flashlights. Lock combinations are all customizable to your clues.



To check them out, please download and fill out the [checkout form](#) and email it to [Lori Wegman](#). You can also access the form in [SharePoint> Office of Curriculum and Instruction>Instructional Resources> BreakoutEDU](#)

You can access FREE pre-made games on the Breakout EDU website. First, create a free [BreakoutEDU](#) account. Then click the topic of choice in the library and search in the "user-generated" section.

There will be some Breakout EDU professional learning opportunities offered soon. **If you would like to know more or have questions, contact [Lori Wegman](#)!**



BreakoutEDU_CheckoutSheet (1).docx

[Download](#)
70.1 KB



Edciting News!

News from Edcite:

- Assigning an Edcite common assessment is as easy as clicking on the Common Assessment tab at the top of your home page. Click 'Assign' and choose your classes.
- Reports are generated by dates, so no need to copy and rename assessments.
- Edcite Smart Sheets are in Share Point, Office of Curriculum and Instruction. They are easy to find using the

filters!

If you need any help, please contact [Dan](#), [Lori](#), and/or [Katie](#). We will be happy to come to you and give you the assistance you need.

MAP Moment

NWEA recently released the Family Report. This report is a summary designed to show parents/guardians how their child is performing academically, as measured by the most recent MAP Growth test(s). The report is family-friendly while providing parents/guardians with guiding questions to ask their child's teacher(s) in order to learn more about their academic progress.



If you haven't already done so, check it out!

Contact [Rob Beidelman](#) (858-7130) with questions regarding the Family Report or other MAP-related needs.

Literacy Lowdown

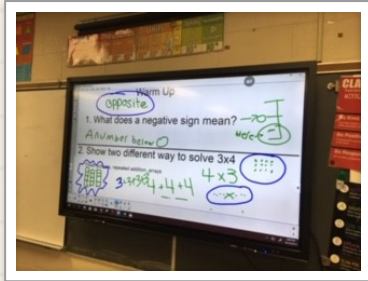
**From there to here
and here to there,
LITERACY things are everywhere!**
Dr. Seuss with a Fairfield spin :)

Literacy strategies are everywhere! We are so excited to see everyone using the literacy strategies we learned last year. We have seen these strategies being used in core classes and co-curriculars.

Our literacy grant is in its second year. We look forward to our work together this year as we continue developing our strategies while learning how to intentionally structure lessons for the development of literacy in all students.

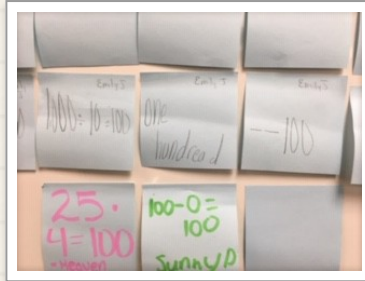
We would love to hear from you. Send us an email or text with a time and place or pictures. We would love to see all the great literacy strategies you are utilizing with your students.

[Lauren Sweeney](#) and [Jen Lewis](#)



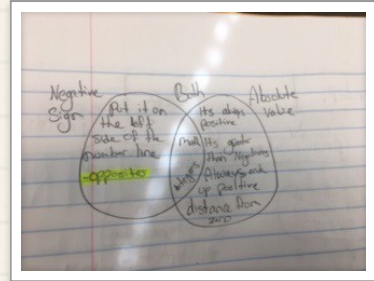
Math with Nickie Tock

Every day, she and her students start with a warm up. It takes about 10 minutes, and it is helping the students solidify their past knowledge and connect it to their current learning. The prompts say, "1. What does a negative sign mean? 2. Show two different ways to solve 3×4 ."



Bulletin Board

A bulletin board has a prompt, and the students keep adding answers as they learn new math concepts. "On a post-it note ... List ways to write 100. *Think of order of operations, opposites, and out of the box ideas."



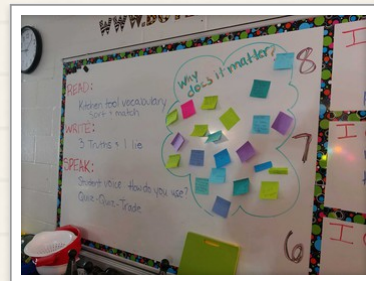
Math notebooks

Students were asked to compare and contrast the negative sign and absolute value.



Social Studies with Jim Hauser

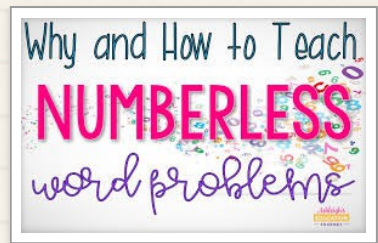
Students in Mr. Hauser's 8th grade Social Studies class designed travel posters for one of the 13 colonies. Then, they used their classmates' posters to fill out a semantic feature analysis of each colony.



Food and Healthy Relations with Karlin Hoffart

Students in Mrs. Hoffart's 8th grade Food and Healthy Relations class used literacy and Kagan strategies to study kitchen utensils. They also brainstormed on post it notes about why knowing about kitchen tools matters.

One of the strategies for teaching word problems to students of all ages is to use *Numberless Word Problems*. This is an old strategy that is resurfacing and with good reason. The Modeling & Reasoning reporting category is one that our students in Fairfield struggle with on the OST and EOC. The majority of the problems that fall into this category are word problems, no matter the domain.



Numberless Word Problems are treated as a close reading exercise. During the first read, take out all of the numbers. At this point, a series of questions is asked by the teacher to draw student attention to the information before students try to make sense of the numbers. Then numbers are added back in for another read and discussion. Then students use words, numbers, and/or pictures to work the problem.

You can take this a step further and also take out the question for the 1st read. The students try to figure out what the question might be. Add the numbers back in and again talk about what the question could be. Finally, reveal the actual question. You may want students to answer the questions that they came up with along with solving the real problem.

The link will take you to a website with great information on how to get started:

<https://bstockus.wordpress.com/numberless-word-problems/>

Contact [Debi Freimuth](#) if you have any questions about Numberless Word Problems.

TEACHING GRAMMAR USING AUTHENTIC STUDENT WRITING



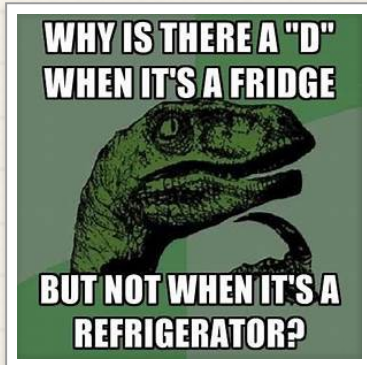
Just to reiterate how grammar should be taught based on research findings and how it is stated in the standards, there is a link to a blog below (*also a 20 minute podcast if you prefer listening*). This pedagogy aligns with OWP's beliefs, for those of you who have had OWP PD, that grammar instruction should be embedded in writing, not taught in isolation. Mini-lessons should be used as an instructional strategy when aligned with writing and student need.

Another thought... The state assessments put more emphasis on purpose: focus and organization (4 points), evidence and elaboration (4 points) than on the conventions: grammar, usage, punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling (2 points).

<https://www.cultofpedagogy.com/grammar-spelling-errors/>

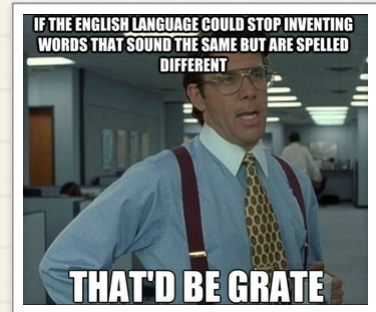

There are also other valuable resources that may interest you on the website: www.cultofpedagogy.com.

Contact [Laura Griffin](#) if you would like to have conversation about teaching grammar using authentic student writing.



English is difficult.

It can be understood though through tough thorough thought.



ESL (Excellent Students Learning)

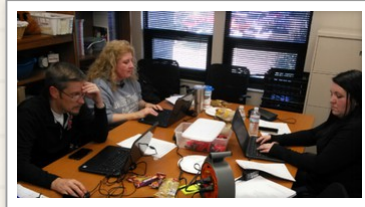
From the 'mouths of babes'...

Crossroads Middle School ESL teacher, Jen Crawley, queried her students about what has contributed most to their academic success. The answers worth noting may not be anything new, but they are highly effective:

taking good notes~learning through games~asking the teacher for help~**practice tests**~**group work and discussions**~challenging classes~great teachers~**charts, graphs and visual aids**~hands-on learning opportunities~labs~computer access~**participating in class**~

All of these answers are great, and answers in bold especially help ELs navigate the classroom. Something to keep in mind!

Contact [Dawn Warren Hildreth](#) for more EL ideas and activities.



Great Minds Don't Think Alike

Federalist/Antifederalist comparisons in Dan Jacobs' AP Government Class.

AP Government

Dan Jacobs, Dana Staggs, and Kate Sanicky work hard on new curriculum.

Manufacturing Day

FHS students visit local manufacturing plants for National Manufacturing Day. MFG Day is led by the Manufacturing Institute, which is the workforce and education partner of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM).

Encouragement Corner

This video is an "oldie, but a goodie." I love it even though it makes me cry every time I see it! It always reminds me of how it is so important for us, as educators, to focus more on what our students can do versus dwelling on what they might not be able to do. Teachers have the power to see the best in kids and to help them fulfill their destiny. **Thank you for doing that for our students each and every day!**

Mandy

World's Most Amazing Dog! Meet dog surfing extraordinaire, Surf Dog Ricochet



Eppicurf.com/DianeEdmonds




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