

Fairfield's C&I Update

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A Strong Finish

As this week wraps up and winter break begins, remember it is important to take care of YOU. Please be sure to build in some time to relax and rejuvenate over the winter break.

However, before we get to the relaxing part, we must make it through this last week of school. To ensure a successful week, Angela Watson provides us with "7 Teacher Tips for Surviving the Week before a Holiday Break."

1. Don't build anticipation. Assemblies, presentations, and other holiday events are unavoidable in December; but you can prevent your class from getting over-excited by staying focused on daily routines. I list my schedule changes in a prominent place for children who need to have a plan, but I don't mention the special events at all unless we need to prepare.

2. Resist the urge to ease up on your behavioral expectations. Believe me when I say that easing up will backfire completely. When the teacher is lackadaisical, it just adds to the environment of chaos that the students are slowly creating and makes it harder to get the class back on track.

3. Review your procedures and expectations. It's probably been a few weeks or months since you've articulated and modeled some of your classroom procedures for the entire class. Now would be a great time to do so.

4. Integrate high-interest projects and group work into your regular routines. I like to finish the majority of my content instruction early in the month so that students can spend most of the last week before break practicing and applying skills. On the last few days of December, they can complete activities that allow for more interaction.

5. Don't feel pressure to do all of the elaborate holiday stuff that other teachers do. So what if the teacher across the hall covers her room in tinsel and lights? Don't compare yourself, and don't wear yourself out trying to keep up. New teachers, especially, need to resist the urge to take on more than they can handle. Figure out some simple festive things you can do that won't create a lot of stress and stick with those.

6. Keep the last day before break low-key. Three hours before you pack up your whole family and make an eight hour trip to grandma's house is NOT the time to plan an elaborate fraction-review-gingerbread-house-decorating activity. You'll be distracted by your own holiday plans, the kids who actually show up to school will be too excited to follow directions, and you'll be running around like crazy to clean up so you can leave on time. Instead, give meaningful work assignments that the kids will enjoy completing and enjoy the last day together.

7. Get prepared for January before you leave. Try to use the day before break to take down any seasonal decorations you have up, change the calendar, finalize your lesson plans and materials for the first day back, etc. There's nothing worse than coming back to work after a week off to discover silver glitter and unwritten thank you cards all over your desk. A new year is coming. Give yourself a new start!

From all of us to all of us in the Office of C&I to all of you – We hope your last few days are great and your break is even better!



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The 2017-18 testing window is February 5th to March 30th



You can access each English Learner's Plan in EdInsight: Student> FORMS> Most Recent English Learner Plan

ESL Q & A

In the state of Ohio, English learners take the Ohio English Language Proficiency Assessment (OELPA). The test measures English acquisition through four language domains:

Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing. The testing window for this school year is February 5th to March 30th. The results will be sent to us mid-May.

The data we receive will give information on who will exit ESL services and who still needs the ESL support for the 2018-2019 school year. OELPA is different from the previous ESL assessment (OTELA) in a few ways:

1. OELPA is all online.
2. K-2 students participate in the assessment. (OTELA had a rubric that was completed by the classroom teacher.)

3. K-2 students are able to exit services. (OTELA did not allow any student to exit until 3rd grade.)
4. OELPA results look different from OTELA results – PLEASE SEE BELOW:

We can no longer talk about English learners as “Level 1, 2, 3, etc.” due to the new Proficiency Status score from OELPA. Now, there are three overall performance levels: Proficient, Emerging and Progressing.

The performance levels are determined as follows:

- “Proficient” students are those scoring any combination of 4’s and 5’s across all four domains;
- “Emerging” students are those scoring any combination of 1’s and 2’s across all four domains;

- “Progressing” students are those scoring any combination across the four domains that does not fall into Proficient or Emerging.

What does this mean? It means we need to look at each student and scores received in each of the four domains, focusing on the language skills the student needs to move onto the next domain level.

Log onto EdInsight to access each English Learner’s Plan: Student> FORMS>Most Recent English Learner Plan. There is also a Smart Sheet located in Office 365>Share Point> Office of Curriculum & Instruction>ESL Communications>ESL Information>OELPA.

Ask an ESL staff member any questions, email Laurie Gage, or call 513.858.7140.

PD Express Reminder

As you recall, we have moved from Ascriptica to PDExpress to record district professional development opportunities. Here you can register for district offerings and keep tabs on your previous work.

Please remember to register for staff meetings and other PD opportunities **PRIOR** to the scheduled event. This will save significant time in verifying your attendance and giving you CEUs for credit.

To login, click PDExpress on the FCSD links page. Enter your computer username (jeffers_d or 000001234) and your computer password. From there, click ‘Courses’ and select ‘Courses Catalog’ from the drop-down.

The courses are listed in a calendar view. Find the course for which you wish to register. Click on the course. Here you will find a pop-up window with details about the course.

Click the gray ‘Register’ button in the top right corner. Confirm your registration by clicking the ‘Continue>’ button. That’s it! You are now registered. Your name will appear on the sign-in sheet when you arrive at the event.

If you are unable to find the course, please contact your building administrator (for building meetings) or Office of Curriculum & Instruction (for district events).

Thanks for your help!



Please register in PD Express PRIOR to the scheduled event.

Around the District...

