

Fairfield's C&I Update

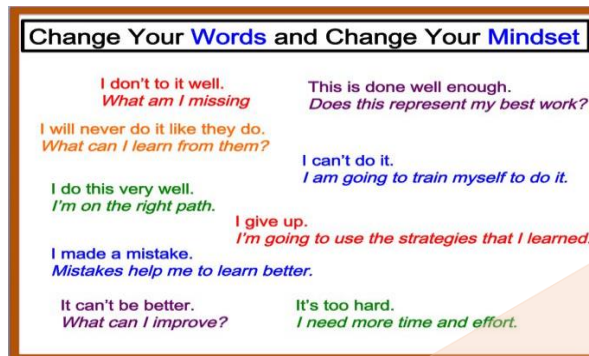
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Growth or Achievement – Which is More Important?

This question is often discussed in the world of education; and it causes a debate, which doesn't seem to have a clear answer. As educators, we all recognize that students come to us with different backgrounds and that growth is the right way to think about learning. However, the world judges us and our students by achievement – can they reach the benchmark on a given day at a given time with all of their peers? With high stakes testing just around the corner, everyone is thinking about growth and achievement. How do we communicate to students that **both** growth and achievement are important?

Carol Dweck is leading the research in growth mindset – the idea that intelligence can be developed. Students who are taught that they can “grow their brains” and increase their intellectual abilities not only show more growth throughout a school year, they also perform better on high stakes tests.

One way to incorporate growth mindset into your classroom is by helping students change the language they use.



Another way to help develop a growth mindset, especially during testing season, is to teach students the purpose of standardized testing. We take standardized tests to show how much they are learning, to show how much growth they have made, and to show if they know the material on the test on the day they take it. Remind students that standardized tests do not show how smart they are, their potential, or if they will ever know the material on the test. Standardized tests are a snapshot in time. While it is important for students to do their best, a test does not define who they are.

A few ideas for sharing growth mindset and testing information with kids can be found at the links below:

<http://www.mindsetworks.com/websitemedia/protected/studenttools/gm-testtips1-purpose-newsletter.pdf>
<http://edublog.scholastic.com/post/growth-mindset-and-testing-what-we-can-learn-hunger-games>

As you get further into the stressfulness of this time of year, please remember ...

We are in this together.

Lani



Office of Curriculum and Instruction

Rob Beidelman

Debi Freimuth

Laurie Gage

Laura Griffin

Dan Jeffers

Maegan Noland

Katie Pennel

Katie Pospisil

Debbie Rulon

Jennie Thompson

Lori Wegman

Lani Wildow

For a link to the "Quiz" found in a recent Education Weekly Blog, please visit: [Education Week Quizzes](#)



ESL Q & A

Fairfield City School District's ESL population continues to grow each month. While it can be a challenge to receive any new student in the middle of the year, it can seem more difficult to help a new English Learner (EL) assimilate to your classroom routines and to find out what the student knows in regards to content when he or she knows very little English or no English at all.

Your ESL staff (ESL teachers and tutors) have great suggestions for ways to assist and support learning within the content areas along with ways to help EL students learn "school" in Fairfield and feel more comfortable while at school.

Below is a link to a "Quiz" found in a recent Education Weekly Blog. Once you take the quiz, there is a way to check your answers to see whether you answered correctly or incorrectly and to learn more about why an incorrect answer was not accurate. A couple of the answers are quite surprising! If you choose to take the 8 question quiz, you may learn something new regarding this ever growing nationwide population.



Lastly, there have been additional translated documents uploaded in the Office of Curriculum & Instruction SharePoint along with a "Teaching Strategies" document, which includes ideas that may be new to you. If you have a few moments to access the newly uploaded documents, you can find them in the Office of Curriculum & Instruction SharePoint>ESL Communications & INFO>ESL Information OR Translated Documents.

As always, if you ever have questions, ask an ESL staff member in your building; or you can reach Laurie Gage via district email or by calling 858-7140.

Saving documents to your desktop is risky business!



Are you saving to the DESKTOP? ☹️

As we go about our day producing documents and files for our daily work responsibilities, it is easy to start saving things to the desktop. **Don't do it!**

This is a risky option that can have negative consequences in two cases:

- 1) Hard Drive Crash – Computers are made up of components that fail from time to time. If you save things to your desktop and the hard drive fails, there is a good chance that you will lose many or all of the files.
- 2) Computer Refresh – Teacher/staff machines are on a replacement schedule,

but from time to time this schedule is altered for one reason or another. When saving items to the hard drive, those items on the computer desktop will not be transferred to a new computer.

What's a staff member to do?

Save your documents/files in one of these two places that are backed up daily:

- 1) My Documents – Every user profile has a 'My Documents' folder that is attached to it. This folder is available to you from any machine on the district

network and is backed up each day (in two places in case one fails).

2) OneDrive in Office 365 – This is a cloud based folder, which is available to you from any machine that has an internet connection. Use it to store files that you will share with others or need to access from home.

While it may take a few extra clicks to select one of these two locations, the payoff is the confidence you have in knowing your documents/files are safe and available.

As always, please contact us, Dan, Lori, or Katie, with any questions.

It's ALMOST SPRING ... TESTING!

Important Upcoming Testing Dates

February 5th to March 30th – Ohio English Language Proficiency Assessments (OELPA)

****Your BTC along with your ESL Teacher(s) and ESL Tutor(s) will be creating and communicating a schedule that meets the needs of your students and buildings. There are 4 domains for testing: Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking. Speaking is done on an individual basis with students and staff member. Thank you for your flexibility and patience as we test our EL's.**

February 20th to April 13th – Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (AASCD)

**** SPRING TEST WINDOWS 2018 (OST) – Your BTC will be communicating with you the testing schedule that meets the needs of your students and building. The dates listed are simply the windows given by the state. Thank you for your flexibility and patience as we test our students.**

March 26th to April 27th – ELA Ohio State Tests

April 2nd to May 11th – Math, science, and social studies Ohio State Tests

FAQ's

What can districts/schools do to prepare for the upcoming assessments?

They can familiarize themselves and their students with sample online items and practice tests available on the [Ohio's State Tests portal](#) (look for the 'TA Practice Site' icon on the portal's home page). There are sample items for Ohio English language arts and mathematics, as well as online practice tests and released items for the Ohio science and social studies tests.

Students will see the types of questions that Ohio may administer online. Additionally, the online items give students the opportunity to navigate through the online testing system, use the available tools and features, and familiarize themselves with the testing experience.

Test takers will not receive scores when submitting tests on the practice site. They may, however, find answer keys in the Student Practices folder under each subject area.

What are the components for the English language arts assessments?

The assessments will be separated into the following parts:

Grades 3-5

- Part One: Reading and one Extended Writing Response
- Part Two: Reading only

Grades 6 through English Language Arts II

- Part One: Reading and one Extended Writing Response
- Part Two: Reading and one Extended Writing Response

Will there be one or two pieces of writing on the test this year? How many points will they be worth?

All extended writing responses will be worth 10 points. Grades 3-5 will continue to have one extended writing response, and grades 6 through English Language Arts II will have two extended writing responses.



Around the District...

