

Fairfield's C&I Update

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Welcome to the 2017-2018 School Year!

With a couple of weeks now under our belts, this school year is well on its way to being one of the best.

Many of you are doing something new this school year. Doing something new can be both exciting and scary whether it is working in a new building, serving in a new position, or teaching a new subject. According to author and blogger Alex Blackwell, there are real benefits to doing something new.

- **Increased confidence** – Going out on a limb to try something new takes confidence. Showing yourself that you have what it takes will only make you feel better about yourself. You will surprise yourself and realize the potential you have held all along.
- **Appreciation for yourself** – Do you really appreciate yourself for all you do and are capable of doing? Trying a new thing, whether it's a new look, a new hobby, or a new motto, will help you to appreciate what you're really made of.
- **Learning a new skill** – Many times the thing you'll be interested in trying involves learning a new skill. You may be afraid of failing, but don't let that stop you. With practice and persistence, you will gain a cool new skill or hobby to add to your repertoire. It's a good feeling and a greater asset.
- **Helping you break out of a rut** – A great way to break you out of your mundane routine is to do something you've never done before or try something you've never tried. Wake your brain up and tell it that you're not just here to go through the motions. You are here for a purpose!
- **Helping you to see value around you** – Sometimes a little bit of perspective is all we might need to gain a great appreciation and sense of value for the things around us. Things like everyday life, time with our kids, friendship, and interacting with new people all seem completely new and revived when you go out on a limb in another area of your life.

Colleagues in your building are a great support system for you. In addition, your administrators and those in the district office are also here to support you and help you be successful. Whether you are on a new adventure this year or doing something you are familiar with, please feel free to reach out to us as you go throughout this school year. Enjoy!

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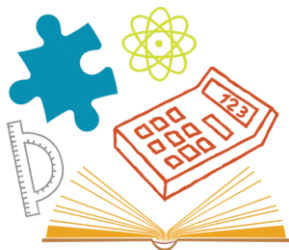
If you are interested in myths/truths related to ESL, please visit these links:

[Myths about Second Language Learning](#)

[Myths and Realities: Best Practices for ESL Students](#)



“Engage Your Students with Interactive Digital Practice”



ESL Q & A

This corner of the Curriculum & Instruction monthly newsletter will focus on questions specific to our English Learners. This month, the Q & A will address myths related to EL's.

Myth #1: When an English Learner is able to communicate in English socially with friends and teachers, they are proficient in English.

Truth #1: It can take English Learners between 7-11 years to become completely proficient in English. This is especially true when it comes to academic language found in content classes. Students who have access to language supports provided by an ESL staff member and their content teacher tend to show more progress than those students who are not given the language support.

Myth #2: Until students learn English, there is no point in teaching them in content area subjects.

Truth #2: English Learners need to continue learning in academic subjects. One of the best ways to teach EL's content (math, science, social studies, etc.) is to teach in the target language (English in Fairfield) by teachers who use good teaching strategies.

If there are questions you have that are related to English Learners, please contact Laurie Gage.

Edcite has a New Look



Over the summer, the team at Edcite worked on a new look. You will notice that now when you login, your classes are the first thing to show up.

Click each section of the new ribbon at the top of Edcite to find items. For example, under 'Content' you will find My Assignments, My Questions, etc. A 'Reports Hub' has been added to speed up the process of finding your data. 'Common Assessments' allows you to find the assessments you would like to assign, quickly and efficiently.

'My Questions' is improved as well. An example of this is Fill in the Blank questions. Click on 'Create a Question' and select 'Fill in the Blanks'. See what it looks like now!

As you can see, the process for creating your questions is much simpler. The pencil icon is clearly marked. 'Set Answer' is next to 'Edit' so you can toggle between them, and the gear helps with scoring. The one item you will really like is the 'Student View'.



Before you had to click on 'Preview' to see how the question would look for a student. Now you can toggle between the views.

We think you will find this improved Edcite much easier to navigate and use. If for any reason you still like the old interface, click on

[Return to Old Interface](#)

and go back to the way it looked before.

Have a great school year.

Around the District...

