

WELCOME TO THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

1ST QUARTER NEWSLETTER

WELCOME BACK, FCSD STAFF!

I hope you had a fun, relaxing summer and enjoyed time with family and friends. It feels so good to be starting the school year with in-person learning, five days a week. Even though Covid is not completely a thing of the past, I hope this year looks and feels more normal. We definitely need and want our focus to be on teaching and learning during the 21-22 school year - that will make our year feel normal!

We have a few new faces in the curriculum department this year. We are excited to welcome Georgine Bowman, Todd Bradbury, Amber Heis, Lauren Sweeney, and Lori Vail to the Office of Curriculum and Instruction team. You can read more about them below. Additionally, Instructional Specialists will be in our elementary buildings each week to offer support to staff and students.

I hope you enjoy our quarterly newsletter and I wish you all a wonderful start to the school year.

Mandy Aug, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

MEET OUR NEW DEPARTMENT MEMBERS



GEORGINE BOWMAN

We are pleased to announce Georgine Bowman as the new Coordinator of Elementary Curriculum and Instruction, effective July 1. Georgine comes to us from the Butler County Educational Service Center, where she was Curriculum Director. She is replacing Jennie Thompson, a long-time member of the FCSD staff, who retired this summer.

Georgine, a Fairfield resident, is a former teacher (grades 2-8) and instructional coach. She has experience with all levels of education having worked with students, teachers, and administrators.

Please join us in welcoming Georgine!

TODD BRADBURY

Todd is joining the Curriculum Department as a Technology Integration Coach at Creekside Middle School. Todd has been in education for eight years and has been at Fairfield for one, serving as a 7th grade math teacher and basketball coach. He is looking forward to the new opportunities and learning that he will gain from this position and his colleagues.



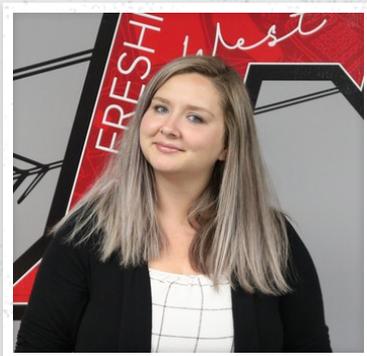
AMBER HEIS

Amber is joining the Curriculum Department as Instructional Specialist for English Learners. Amber has been in education for nine years, five of which have been in Fairfield as an English Language teacher at both Central and North elementary schools. She is looking forward to working with classroom teachers and EL teachers to share ideas on how to best support the EL students in Fairfield. Amber lives in Glendale with her husband and three children Hannah, Sam, and Henry.

LAUREN SWEENEY

Lauren Sweeney is joining the Curriculum Department as a Technology Integration Coach at Crossroads. Lauren has been in education for eighteen years, ten in Winton Woods and eight in Fairfield. She has been a middle school classroom teacher as well as a literacy coach.

Lauren lives in Fairfield Township with her husband and two children, who attend North and Crossroads. She is looking forward to working with teachers and students to maximize our one-to-one technology for student learning!



LORI VAIL

Lori Vail has been with the Fairfield City School District since she started student teaching at the high school in August of 2010. Since then, Lori has served as an English teacher at Fairfield Senior High School, producer for the Drama Club, adviser of the Women's Leadership Club, and member of the building and district leadership teams. Lori, who has always been passionate about using technology to make life more efficient or more engaging, is hopeful that working in the role of Technology Integration Coach will allow her to be encouraging and supportive of teachers who desire to incorporate technology into their lives in efficient and engaging ways as well.

BITS & BYTES

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year! We are excited to have so many tech tools and supports to enhance the education of our students this year!

Please take some time to check out our [Staff Tech Hub](#) for tons of 'how-to's' and Smartsheets. Here you will find information about most of the tech tools we support as a district. It is one-stop-shop to find answers to many of your tech challenges.

Secondly, please know that we have some very excited teachers that are here to support you! Here is a quick list of folks and the buildings they will be in. But remember, they are not limited to just that building. They are here for you! Feel free to reach out to any of us through a tech ticket or email if you are a facing a challenge with which we can help!

Ricardo Calles – FHS and FFS
Lori Vail – FHS and FFS
Todd Bradbury – Creekside
Laureen Sweeney – Crossroads

And while tech may not be their main focus, our Instructional Coaches will be in the Elementary Buildings on Mondays and Fridays. Please use them as a resource for curriculum

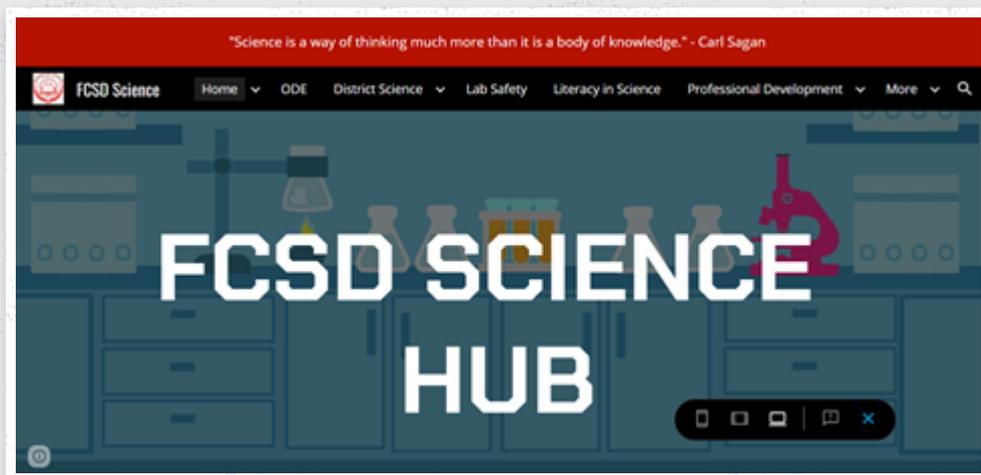
and technology:

Amber Heiss – Central
Laura Griffin – Compass
Debi Freimuth – East
Rob Beidelman – North
Lori Wegman – South
Katie Pennell – West

As always, feel free to reach out to [Dan Jeffers](#) as well. We are here to work side-by-side with you to serve our students. #togetherwecan

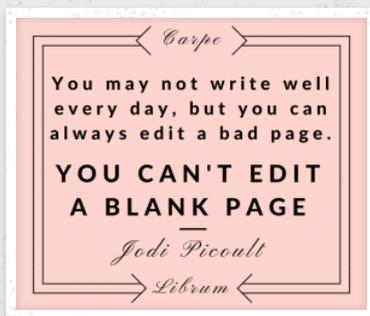
THE SCIENCE SCOOP

Welcome back! With the new school year comes a new feature just for science teachers: [The FCSD Science Hub!](#)



This Google site is designed to be a “one-stop-shop” to save you time and effort in finding everything you need for teaching science in Fairfield: information from ODE, district forms and policies, curriculum materials, lab safety, professional development opportunities, and more! This site will be updated often, so bookmark it. NOTE: This site is only accessible to those signed into their FCSD Google account.

Feel free to contact [Lori Wegman](#) via email or 513.858.7129.



ELA

Welcome to the Literacy Locale! Each publication will offer a strategy, links to resources, and some quotes for you or your students. This first piece will focus on WRITING. I had a saying in my classroom: *You only have to write on the days you eat.* It made the students wonder, but then it clicked after having them say it out loud a couple of times.

3 ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF WRITING INSTRUCTION

1. Intentional Teaching

Time must be built in DAILY.

Use models/exemplars.

Assessment/Feedback are ongoing, not just the end of an assignment/quarter/unit.

Conference with small groups/individuals.

Mini-lessons:

- Kept short so the kids have time to practice;
- Based on student work.

Longer Units of Study

2. Choice

Students should be given a choice of what to write as often as possible.

The beginning of the year is the perfect time to set up **Writer's Notebooks** with the students.

- Table of Contents (number the blank pages)
- Sections (How do you want to organize the tool?)
- If you would like to see some samples or want more advice, contact me.

3. Time (*Writing Instruction Must Occur Daily*)

Writing Sprints: The goal is simple: increasing our speed in getting words onto the page (stamina).

- Students look in their Writer's Notebook: Things I Can Talk About/Writing Territories/Quick Lists and choose three items to write about (students star those or write each on the page, leaving space between each word).
- Teacher sets a time limit (letting students know) and tells students when to start writing. *Start the year with a short time (1-1 ½ minutes/age appropriate). Increase the time as students adapt.*
- Students write on one topic.
- After the teacher calls "Time", students stop and count all the words written and write the number beside the sprint. (This is **not** a time to check spelling, grammar, etc. The goal is

to build **stamina**).

- Students leave some space and write next topic.
- Continue the above steps with the other two prompt choices.
- Track Progress: Most of us are competitive, if even with ourselves. Students should, at the least, record on the page how many words were written for each sprint. Some may like to track progress (growth) on a personal chart (Marzano strategy). Do not call students out for low numbers.
- These sprints can then be used at a later time for students to continue writing a lengthier piece or teacher reference.

Short or Lengthy

- Informal/Formal: lists, sentences, responses, choice, reflective, narrative, charts, tables, argumentative, poetry, letters, etc. etc. etc.

Students should be writing more than you can ever read!

- Writing is messy!
- Students must have time to practice, just like any other skill.

WRITING RESOURCES

[Literacy Strategies Fairfield City Schools O365](#)

[OWP \(Ohio Writing Project\) Resources in O365](#)

<https://www.time4writing.com/free-writing-resources/>

<https://www.teachwrite.org/blog>

<https://twowritingteachers.org/>

The Ohio Department of Education now has all the resources in ONE place to make finding what you are looking for easier. Click the ODE button below for your convenience.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS RESOURCES

The Ohio Department of Education

QUOTES

- "I'm writing a first draft and reminding myself that I'm simply shoveling sand into a box so that later I can build castles." – *Shannon Hale*
- "Plot is no more than footprints left in the snow after your characters have run by on their way to incredible destinations." – *Ray Bradbury*
- "The first draft is a skeleton. Just bare bones. The rest of the story comes later with revising." – *Judy Bloom*
- "Writing is the painting of the voice." – *Voltaire*
- "If I waited for perfection, I would never write a word." – *Margaret Atwood*
- "If you don't see the book you want on the shelf, write it." – *Beverly Cleary*

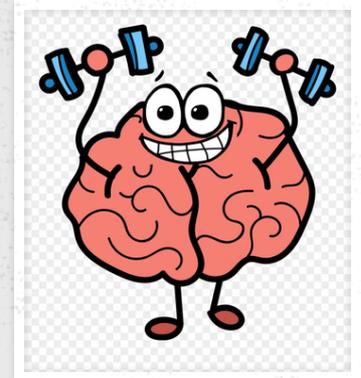
As always, feel free to reach out to me with questions, concerns or just to chat!

[Laura Griffin](#)

513.858.7115

MATH MINDS

A new school year with new opportunities is upon us. I will be spending Mondays and Fridays at East Elementary. This new setup will allow me to dig deeper into the elementary world. I am looking forward to as normal a school year as possible.



Grades 3-12: The Ohio Readiness Toolkits are available for Mathematics tested areas. You will find the information through these links:

- [Mathematics Test Specifications](#)
- [How to Use Test Specifications in the Classroom](#)
- [Mathematics Test Blueprints](#)
- [How to Use Test Blueprints in the Classroom](#)
- [Mathematics PLDs](#)

Ohio has created a ***Restart Readiness Assessment Portal and Benchmark Tests*** for tested areas. Shorter checkpoint assessments are also included. This offers us an opportunity to focus in on the tested standards. Click the ODE button below for important information about this resource.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

[Debi Freimuth](#)

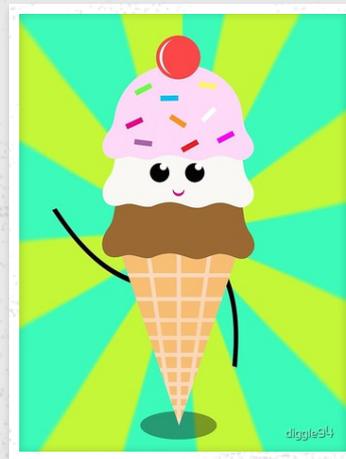
513.858.7120

RESTART READINESS ASSESSMENT PORTAL AND BENCHMARK TESTS

Ohio Department of Education

SOCIAL STUDIES SCOOP

I am very excited to begin this new school year with you. As most of you are, I am praying that this be a normal school year. I will be spending Mondays and Fridays at East Elementary. This new setup will allow me to dig deeper into the elementary world. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.



Grades 1-5: Welcome to year 2 of using Ohio Studies Weekly as your core curriculum. The student print materials are in your building as they were delivered last May. You and your students will access the online materials through Clever. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Grades 9-12: The Ohio Readiness Toolkits are now available for Social Studies tested areas. You will find the information through these links:

- [Social Studies Test Specifications](#)
- [How to Use Test Specifications in the Classroom](#)
- [Social Studies Test Blueprints](#)
- [How to Use Test Blueprints in the Classroom](#)
- [Social Studies PLDs](#)

Ohio has created a ***Restart Readiness Assessment Portal and Benchmark Tests*** for tested areas. Shorter checkpoint assessments are also included. This offers us an opportunity to focus in on the tested standards. Click the ODE button below for important information about this resource.

Fee free to contact me with any questions.

[Debi Freimuth](#)

513.858.7120.

RESTART READINESS ASSESSMENT PORTAL AND BENCHMARK TESTS

Ohio Department of Education

FINE & PERFORMING ARTS

The Art and Music departments had their curriculum adoption year last year and are really looking forward to using their new curriculum with equipment. The Art department welcomes Lauren Harmon back to the district. She will be teaching Art at Central Elementary. The Music department welcomes 6 new Music teachers. Idil Guuz will be teaching General Music at

Compass Elementary. Erin Williams is moving to Crossroads to teach Band. Melanie Schackmann will be teaching Orchestra at Creekside Middle School. Joining her at Creekside is Mitch Hardy, teaching Band and Briana Baker teaching Choir. Matt Baker will be teaching Freshman and High School Choir along with Taylor Fenner. Please be sure to give these new teachers a warm welcome. The Art and Music departments look forward to a great year.

Questions about Art and Music department curriculum? Contact [Katie Pennell](#) via email or 513.858.7125.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Hello, World Languages!

Welcome back to school! Hope you had an incredible summer. We have quite the year ahead with new curriculums, platforms, and OTES 2.0. There are a lot of questions. I have questions too. I want you to be assured that we will figure them out together. I look forward to this year and to serving you in any way that is possible.

My goal is to support you in any way that I can. Don't ever hesitate to reach out to me if you want me to come to any of your classes or to meet with you. I am excited to continue working closely alongside all of you.

I am gearing us up for our in-service day in September. All languages will have a session in the afternoon that focuses on comprehensible input and teaching to the state standards with Angela Gardner, Spanish teacher at Ross. I have reached out to the different textbook vendors with our new curriculum. Here is what I am thinking for the morning sessions:

ASL, Mandarin, German: The morning will consist of you working on your new curriculum/OTES 2.0 Information.

Spanish: I am working with our rep who has put in a request for a trainer for Asi Se Dice!, but we have yet to hear back. This would take place virtually.

French: You all went through some training this summer, which I am told, was great! If you guys need it, we can set up a Q/A Zoom with the textbook vendors. Just let me know as soon as possible. Otherwise, the morning will consist of you working on your new curriculum/OTES 2.0 Information.

I have had someone express interest on training with Clever, which is a tool that can be useful in your classroom. If you are interested in that, let me know. It does not necessarily have to be on in-service day, but it can be done at a department meeting/TBT.

I will finalize the schedule as September gets closer.

Once again, welcome back!

[Rico Calles](#)

513.942.2999 x 2528

BREAKOUT EDU!

The Office of Curriculum and Instruction owns 12 BreakoutEDU kits that can be customized for your lesson or meeting "escape" game! Simply fill out the [Breakout Kit Check-Out form](#) and we will take care of the rest! Your customized kits will be delivered to you prior to your event all ready to go and picked up when you are finished.



The form and more information regarding BreakoutEDU can also be found in SharePoint>Office of Curriculum and Instruction>Instructional Resources>BreakoutEDU, or by contacting [Lori Wegman](#).

FCSD PERSONALIZED PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SITE

Are you looking for a way to earn CEUs this year? Explore FCSD's PPL site for learning modules that align to your professional growth needs and interests.

CROWDFUNDING INFORMATION

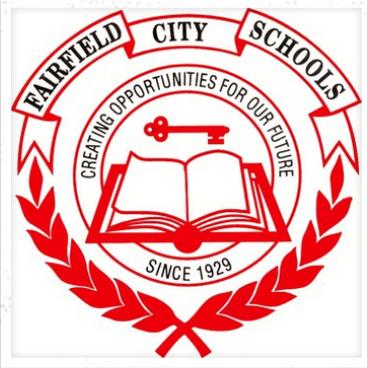
Dear Staff,

I want to bring your attention to an important district process related to online fundraising and/or crowdfunding. If you intend to use sites like Donors Choose or GoFundMe, *please read [the linked Board policy \(below\)](#)*. The policy requires that you get approval in advance of posting anything on these sites and the request must meet certain guidelines for approval. Once you fill out the Crowdfunding Request form (via the button below), your principal must sign the form. This form should then be sent to the Superintendent's office, where it will be distributed to the appropriate department for final approval.

Please be advised that posting on these sites before receiving approval could result in disciplinary action (per board policy). Following the steps outlined in the board policy and submitting your paperwork to your principal in advance is essential – thank you for your help in keeping the district compliant with this policy.

Thank you,
Mandy

CROWDFUNDING REQUEST FORM



DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

 @FCSDCurrInstru

 4641 Bach Lane, Fairfield, OH,...  513.829.6300

 fairfieldcityschools.com/