

Coaching Tidbits & News

“Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose.”

Shout Outs: It is so inspiring when I get to see teachers with so much enthusiasm and eagerness to learn and improve their craft. A big shout out to Megan, for being so eager to try new things, work with me to come up with new ideas and then immediately go put them into play in her classroom. The best part of this job is feeling like what I am doing is worthwhile and helpful. As teachers, we get to see that in our classrooms through student learning and growth. It's a little harder to gage in this new role but so many of you have made it possible and so enjoyable by seeking me out, being so open to try new things, and sharing your knowledge with me and others. **THANK YOU!**



To my Grandview teachers, **THANK YOU** for allowing me the pleasure of being in your classrooms, teaching side by side with you. I am having so much fun working with great teachers all the while getting to teach kids again.

Thank you to Mallory for letting me be a part of your Math and working with kids to get a better idea of Go Math.

Nuts & Bolts of Teaching

December 2016

Reading Workshop

The 90 minutes reading block should focus on the five foundational components of reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary. Often **vocabulary** gets left to the side. Because our students come to us with wide disparities in vocabulary and background knowledge, it falls to the teachers to close the gap. To do so requires vesting time in vocabulary instruction; which is an essential part to building reading comprehension. Young readers typically do not read enough to grow their vocabulary through reading alone. According to researchers, somewhere between 8-10 words per week is the right number to target direct, explicit instruction. Somehow make vocabulary a part of your daily instruction. Creating a vocabulary board in your room helps gives kids visual reminders of the words they are learning.

Writing Workshop

At our last grade level meetings we discussed building your 6 trait bulletin boards and kid friendly rubrics from your daily instruction. This is such an important part of your writing workshop. Kids need to see the connection between what they are doing each day in writing to their own learning and the progression of how it continues to connect and grow. Try to find a way to put your board and rubric in your teaching area so that it can easily be worked into your lessons. This will help make it easier for you to add to them and for your kids to refer to them.

Remember that language lessons can be a part of your writing time. Learning essential language skills is just as important to building good writers as is structure of writing genres. These can be tied to the conventions trait when you are adding a lesson's focus to your board.

Go Math

I know many have had issues with Personal Math Trainer. We have a digital resource expert coming on the 9th to provide some training an address any questions. Coaches and lead Math teachers will attend and then bring back information to everyone else. I sent a google doc that is divided into areas to put comments, such as questions, concerns, aha moments, or things you feel worthy of adding for future discussions. Please try to take time to add to it as things come up in your lessons. This will be a good resource for us as we continue to work through Go Math. Hopefully it can also become a tool to help support one another. Often one teacher may figure something out or see an issue that everyone else doesn't. We need to remember that we are just ONE BIG team for student learning. The more we can share and support one another the more we help our students.

If we teach today's students as we taught yesterday's, we rob them of tomorrow.



Coaching Thoughts

I recently read an interesting quote I believe to be very powerful; "If teachers increase instruction time by just 15 minutes a day through the use of more efficient routines and procedures, students in the classroom would gain 45 hours of instructional time per year." 45 HOURS....that is A LOT of learning!!



- **Organize** your day according to the most important tasks. Sounds easy right? Well according to the [United Federation of Teachers](#) website, it's not easy as it sounds. Teachers have a lot of responsibilities and things can interrupt or derail everyday tasks. If you set priorities it can help keep you on track when something unexpected may occur. Teachers are constantly getting interrupted, have it be a phone call from the school nurse or a fire drill. By prioritizing your tasks teachers can complete their tasks no matter what the interruption is.
- Another way to help make this possible is to plan for transitions just as you would plan for instruction. Often we teach procedures the first few weeks then never think about them again. Well planned procedures and transitions with clear expectations for students behavior and responsibilities will lead to a much smoother classroom for you and your students and help you gain that extra 15 minutes. Another way to help gain valuable instructional time is teacher readiness. This means having all your supplies ready and at hand for each lesson so transitions for you are seamless and eliminates idle time, which often leads to student misbehavior.
- Use timers!! Often we get caught up in our teaching, which is not a bad thing, and lose track of time. Once we get off schedule and spend more time on one lesson than we planned for then it seems our whole day is off. Set timers for each lesson and transitions, as a reminder for yourself and your students.
- There is a great article in the link below that digs deeper into time on task and the value of using every available minute to maximize student engagement and learning. It also has many other links for additional articles and ideas.

<https://feaweb.org/time-on-task-a-teaching-strategy-that-accelerates-learning>

Great Resources

<https://www.teachingchannel.org>
/- It is full of so many wonderful videos to support teacher learning. I love that it has a place to write notes for yourself and you can save them for future reference. Each video also has discussion/thinking points to think about as you watch.

<https://www.vocabulary.com/lists/1341931>- Great site to help support vocabulary instruction. For those of you with a competitive spirit this site also allows you to compete with other schools, classes or districts. It is full of already created lists but also lets you create your own. Kids can practice on the site and even be quizzed. It also tracks student progress.

<http://www.teachhub.com/-A>
great site that is full of teacher shared lessons and ideas, apps, articles and so much to help keep you current on new teaching ideas.

