Instructional Support Newsletter

Welcome back!!

We hope this finds you well rested, and fully back into the swing of things at the NBAPS!

October 2012

For a quick introduction as to the changes in this publication, we would like to take this opportunity to tell you about the instructional support staff in the buildings of District 138!
We have been working to provide you with a monthly newsletter to read and use at your discretion. We also wanted to allow for printing on your own, or in your PLC group. In the future there will also be a Instructional support folder in your google drive folder for your additional resources.

Thanks for your willingness to learn!

Amy, Carla, Christine, Hayley, Laurie and Rachelle

LEARNING TARGETS!!

The What of Learning Targets:

In today's research, classrooms and educational dialogue the terms learning objectives, learning goals, and learning targets are commonly used, but what are they and what do they mean?

Robert Marzano (2009) gave us a clearer understanding when he stated that researchers use these terms interchangeable and that in educational research these three terms essentially mean the same thing.

In a nutshell:
Learning Targets=
Learning Goals=
Learning objectives

In an effort to avoid confusion we will be using the term **learning targets** at NBAPS.

What is a learning target?

Learning Target = a statement of what students will know **(UNDERSTAND)** and be able to **DO**.

Marzano. (2007)

The Why of Learning Targets:

"Robert Marzano reported that the simple act of writing the learning goal in the front of the classroom results in a 27% increase in student achievement. There is a caveat here.....the act of writing the learning objective on the board needs to be done because the teacher in the classroom believes in the importance of clear learning objectives. If the learning objective is written on the board to placate administration, student achievement will not improve."

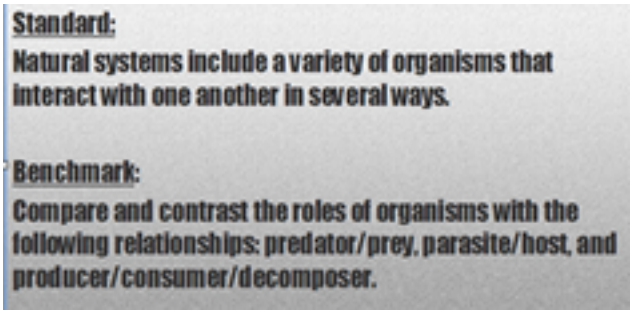
Cassandra Erkens
12/2/11 Common Formative Assessment conference in Minneapolis MN

"Students who can identify what they are learning significantly outscore those who cannot."

Marzano (2005)

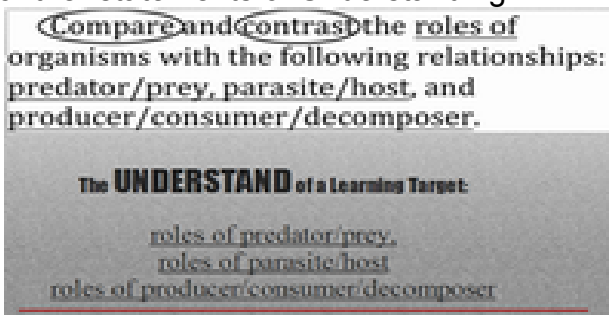
Learning Targets work.
Marzano (2007)

The How of Learning Targets.
Step one: Start with a POWER Standard and benchmark.



Step Two: Circle the Verbs in the supporting Benchmark.

Step Three: Underline the Noun statements, or the “statements of Understanding”.



Step Four: Putting it all together in “I Can” statements.

For great ideas check out our new NB Instructional Coach pinterest board on learning targets.
http://pinterest.com/nbinstcoaches/learning-targets/

TECH TIPS!

Election Day 2012 is coming and we've found some great educational resources for teaching it in the classroom and a few options to hold a student mock election that looked fun and educational. As your Media Specialists/Tech Integrationists, we are there to help your class(es) with this process by helping you get the information you need to teach it, help with setting up an election, and even sorting through and processing the results at the end. Please contact us with your ideas and we would love to support you in this endeavor.

First, the teaching resources:

•We found an abundant of prevalent (standards based) resources, lessons, and projects on Thinkfinity (www.thinkfinity.org) by searching "election".

•The Learning Network by The New York Times has a whole unit on the 2012 election. They also have up to date analysis of the issues, articles to use for class discussions, and all sorts of fun learning activities.
http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/02/28/election-2012-teaching-ideas-and-resources

•TeacherVision is another super site for teachers to explore the facts and features of Election Day. This site has both elementary and secondary reading and interest level resources, activities, and printables.
http://www.teachervision.fen.com/elections/teacher-resources/6615.html

Next, the mock election tools:

1. http://kidsvotingusa.org/vote/?page_id=33

Kids Vote USA does not have an online option for their election but you can hold a student election with paper ballots on Nov 6th. Ballots are being sent to the district through community education. Students can vote in your classroom or at the polls with their parents. All our local elections are included. Community education tabulates the results and announces

the results on their website. A sample of the North Branch Ballot is available with this link: http://myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us/ShowImage.aspx?i=73B85FAD-50CB-46A6-9AE0-11117A29B696 printing this ballot is another great official looking option for a paper election.

2. http://www.nationalmockelection.org/

The National Mock Election has two options: paper voting or online voting. The paper ballot is generated online and can be printed out for each child to vote. The ballots would then need to be hand tallied and if you wanted fancy result graphs, they would have to be created in Excel or Google Spreadsheet. The online option provides a link for students to vote using the site's ballot for the President of the United States, as well as U.S. Senate, and our district's U.S. House of Representatives candidates. This nationwide mock election for students is being held on November 1st instead of on Election Day. Bonus: your students' votes will be included

in the national total published on their website. Pearson is the company running it and they have a full set of teacher resources on their website as well.
http://www.pearsonschool.com/index.cfm?locator=PS1s6l

3. http://goo.gl/Bhb0H

The third option is the most simplistic and would be easiest to mold into exactly what you want for your student mock election. Using the pre-formatted Google Form your students can vote for their candidate of choice in whichever elections you choose from presidential to local. Students can vote on any computing device with an internet connection and more than one student can vote on any device. Login is not necessary; they will just need the link to the form which can be saved as a favorite on the computer's internet browser, written down so the student can type it in, or sent in an email. The Google form will calculate your totals and can summarize them in fantastic graphs and charts to be shared with your class(es), parents, principal, or local media. I would suggest copying the form we created so you can have your own results.

Happy voting!

Amy, Rachelle & Laurie

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES!

Interested in How to Teach Like A Champion? Visit the Instructional Coach Cache blog for weekly posts of Doug Lemov's Teach Like a Champion Techniques.
http://instructionalcoachingcache.blogspot.com/

Looking for new tricks tools and tips on . . (just click on your area of interest)

Accessing Prior Knowledge
Classroom Managment
Graphic Organizers
Learning Targets

BALANCING CONCEPTUAL AND PROCEDURAL LEARNING

Our math textbooks are excellent at breaking down all of the steps in computation using the traditional algorithms and giving the formulas to solve a variety of problems. Because memorizing these steps and memorizing the formulas is the way nearly all of us learned math and it is the way nearly all of us have taught math, that is what we know best. Unfortunately, this method has not translated into students with a solid understanding of math concepts, wanting to make sense of math, having the tenacity to do complex problem solving, or with high test scores.

Researchers who have looked at countries whose test scores are far above those of the United States have made an interesting discovery. Those countries cover fewer topics per grade level, and they teach those topics to a greater depth thereby developing students with a greater understanding of the math behind the algorithms and formulas. Schools in the U.S. who have been successful at raising their math achievement have changed the way their students do math by balancing the procedural learning with conceptual learning. So, how do we help students with the conceptual learning of math? Follow the links to a couple of videos showing strategies that help students develop conceptual understanding.

Singapore Math – Part 1: Developing understanding using number bonds for addition and subtraction, adding ounces, adding fractions, and using compensation to subtract.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-QMZ_f9PUg&feature=related

Using tens frames
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqUwc8yUsKg&feature=related

How Kids Think about Subtraction Part 1
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Puh5JkLjeb4

How Kids Think about Subtraction Part 2
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWLuTG18B7k

Multiplying and dividing fractions using situational stories
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_11SEY-P_h0&feature=related

Algebra I Mixture Problems

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GaFKzDYbQIs

Graphing Linear Equations - Full Body Style
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVavAC3Tclk

November 2012 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:00 - 3:00 New Teacher Inservice EdC Rm 126	2	3
4	5 No School	6	7 4:15 - 5:45 PM Collaborative Coaching Training EdC Rm 126	8 2:00 - 4:00 District QComp Advisory Comm. Meeting	9	10
11	12 No School	13	14 7:00 - 7:45 AM site PLC meetings	15	16 Due Peer Coaching & Mentor Team Action Plans	17
18	19	20	21	22 No School	23 No School	24
25	26 No School	27		29	30 Mentor logs due End of Tri MS/ HS	

Notes/ Meetings/ Plans/ Reflections/ PDP notes for November