

NEWS teaching and learning

Volume 1, Issue 1

Office of Curriculum & Instruction

September 1, 2010

Welcome to our first issue.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

First Six Weeks

August 23 – Oct. 1, 2010

Sept. 6, 2010 – **Labor Day**

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Mentor's Workshop-Wed.. 9-15-10

***The Energy Bus: 10 Rules to Fuel Your Life, Work, and Team with Positive Energy*— BOOK REVIEW**

It's Monday morning and George walks out of the front door to his car and a flat tire. But this is the least of his problems. His home life is in shambles and his team at work is in disarray. With a big new product launch coming in two weeks for the NRG-2000, he has to find a way to get it together or risk losing his marriage and job. Forced to take the bus to work, George meets a unique kind of bus driver and an interesting cast of characters who, over the course of two weeks, share the ten rules for the ride of his life. In the process, they help him turn around his work and life, saving his job and marriage from destruction.

Everyone faces challenges. Every person, organization, company, and team has to overcome negativity and adversity to define themselves and create their success. No one goes through life untested and the answer to these tests is **positive energy**—the kind of positive energy that consists of the vision, trust, optimism, enthusiasm, purpose, and spirit that defines great leaders and their dreams.

The Energy Bus provides a powerful plan for overcoming common life and work obstacles and bringing out the best in yourself.

Are You Riding the Energy Bus?

Are Your Students on the Energy Bus?

LEARNING—AN ON GOING PROCESS

Relationships

Developing positive teacher-student relationships is one of the most effective steps to establish a positive discipline climate in the classroom. Build strong and successful teacher-student relationships based on your own personality and teaching style.

Strategy/Technique One:

Teachers can build relationships with students in many ways. Here are four tips:

- Get to know your students
- Individualize
- Watch what you say
- Keep trying to reach your students

Let us talk about tip number 1.

GET TO KNOW YOUR STUDENTS

TIP #1

It is our responsibility to get to know our students at different levels, not only academically. You may have the content knowledge, but if you do not build the rapport with students, you won't get anywhere **and** remember show respect—to students in your classroom and every student in your school.

HAPPENINGS IN THE DISTRICT: ALSO KNOWN AS CELEBRATIONS

New Teacher Orientation—a great success

Thank you new teachers for your attendance, promptness, and active participation.

District Staff Development—

"Imagine Greatness—An Emmy Award Year"

An unimaginable performance by all, especially our new teachers! Energizing! Awesome! Thank you Ms. Jan Davis, you were a phenomenal Mistress of Ceremony.

An Emmy Award Performance

by Ms. Jan Davis

MARZANO'S EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES

1. Identifying similarities and Differences (45%)
2. Summarizing and note taking (34%)
3. Reinforcing effort and providing Recognition (29%)
4. Homework and practice (28%)
5. Nonlinguistic representations (27%)
6. Cooperative learning (23%)
7. Setting objectives and providing Feedback (23%)
8. Generating and testing hypotheses (23%)
9. Questions, Cues, & Advanced Organizers (22%)

One Strategy focus per week

Identify Similarities and Differences

The ability to break a concept into its similar and dissimilar characteristics allows students to understand (and often solve) complex problems by analyzing them in a more simple way. Teachers can either directly present similarities and differences accompanied by deep discussion and inquiry, or simply ask students to identify similarities and differences on their own. While teacher-directed activities focus on identifying specific items, student-directed activities encourage variation and broaden understanding, research shows. Research also notes that graphic forms are a good way to represent similarities and differences.

Applications:

* Use Venn diagrams or charts to compare and classify items.

*Engage students in comparing, classifying, and creating metaphors and analogies.

District Staff Development Movies

To Sir With Love

Lean on Me

Freedom Writers

Dangerous Minds

Mr. Holland's Opus

HELPFUL websites for TEACHERS

Need ideas or extra resources. Check the back of this newsletter.

Interactive Websites, Games, and Activities

Interactives

Interactive websites engage students by providing information and resources along with practice, simulations, and other learning activities. They can be highly interactive, content-rich simulations such as the **Frog Guts** (subscription-based) simulation and the **Leonardo's Workshop** games. Or, traditional drill and practice like **Funbrain** or book quizzes like **Book Adventure**.

Some people think of interactive games as "low level." However, it depends on how they are used. Are students making a good use of their time? Are the activities realistic, yet challenging? Can you use the games to promote learning in another area? Can you write about the activities?

General Websites

Activity Search from Education Place

<http://www.eduplace.com/activity/>

Links to lots of activities by topic/theme.

BBC Schools

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/>

Lots of great activities. There are many **learning games**.

Birmingham Grid for Learning

<http://www.bgfl.org/bgfl/activities/activities.cfm>

Explore lots of great interactive activities from many content areas. Many of these activities include audio elements. These are aligned with UK standards.

GridClub

<http://www.gridclub.com/>

Explore fun, children's educational games from the UK

Check the Design activities: http://www.gridclub.com/grown_ups/cont_tec.shtml

Learner.org

<http://www.learner.org/students/>

Interactive, online exhibits on topics such as Amusement Park Physics, Ancient Civilizations, and the Middle Ages.

The Learning Box

http://www.learningbox.com/i_index.htm

Interactive activities on many topics.

PBSKids

<http://pbskids.org/games.html>

Lots of games learning and fun games based on PBS characters.

PBS

<http://pbs.org>

Many activities such as **WayBack US History**.

Read Write Think: Student Materials

http://readwritethink.org/student_mat/index.asp

Lots of interactive tools for reading, writing, and thinking.

Scholastic Online Activities

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/>

Contains a mixture of activity types including collaborative, online projects.

Figure This

<http://www.figurethis.org/index.html>

Math activities for kids.

Illuminations

<http://illuminations.nctm.org/tools/index.aspx>

Great interactive tools.

Interactives from WICKED

http://www.tki.org.nz/r/wick_ed/maths/interactives.php

Blast Off, Code Cracker, Matho, Multiple Matrix, Mathor2, Quizit, Flitting with Fractions.

Math Cats

<http://www.mathcats.com/>

Fun activities for creative thinking and math.

Math TV

<http://www.mathtv.org/TuneIn.html>

Math tutorials.

Mathematicians are People Too

<http://nces.ed.gov/nceskids/MathQuiz/>

Take a quiz to find out what mathematician you are like.