



WEEKLY LEADERSHIP CONNECTION

Friday, April 17, 2015



● DISTRICT MESSAGE

We are now entering the final weeks (in some cases final days) before the testing window opens. These last few weeks are all about evaluating our work over the year – how well we have prepared students for success. We often forget that student success determines our success as a school, district and as a team. These last few weeks should be full of focused, strategic and engaging preparations through collaboration, not in isolation. We should be working together, sharing ideas, talking to one another. If one teacher has great assessment strategies we should be looking to him or her for guidance. We must be open to sharing ideas and well-proven strategies.

As administrators (all administrators), we have worked extremely hard this year to make sure that the focus of the district remains on the teaching and learning process, instead of finances and job cuts, especially during the months of March, April and May. As an administrative team, per the request of the school board, we said let's try something different. Instead of having everyone worried about their jobs and district finances, we have emphasized that our focus is on the success of students. We must continue this focus as we make our final approach to the state testing window.

With just a few days and weeks left before the state assessments and AP tests begin, we need to remain focused on our top priority – student achievement. As administrators, we should be performing daily classroom walkthroughs to observe preparations – to ensure that all teachers are focused on making sure that students are prepared for success. Key components to look for in KPREP, EOC, AP Courses are: a) posted terminology that is aligned to the standards and will be seen on the assessments; b) exercises that use similar levels of questioning that will be seen on the assessments; c) quick, short assessments that will provide students an opportunity to practice, and d) activities that are tailored to specific needs of students – based on data. You should be able to see intense, focused instruction, with high student engagement. Last minute preparations should be fun, collaborative and engaging to students. This is the time we must pull out all of the stops, remove all the obstacles and drill down to what students really need to be successful. Furthermore, we must make sure that students are confident that they will succeed. Students are depending on us.

Our job as administrators is to make sure that we support the teaching and learning process by providing resources and support to teachers and students. We must remain positive and be the biggest cheerleaders for success. Teachers and students look to us to keep everyone on track and focused on our vision. Additionally, we must refrain from engaging in blaming students, but instead, refocus the conversations to developing strategies for student success. We must help teachers to find the combination to success for each student.

During your school-based meetings this week (PLCs, leadership teams, faculty/staff meetings) continue to emphasize the importance of school success, through student success. Furthermore, highlight teachers in your building or in the district who are using well-developed preparation plans that include some or all of the components mentioned earlier in this message. Again, this is the time to share and collaborate together. There are strategic and innovative preparations that are occurring throughout the district and we need to encourage teachers to share – so that all students are succeed.

Be prepared to share out at the next principals' meeting what your teachers are doing to prepare students for success on the state assessments. Be able to talk about specific teachers, grade levels or departments and bring examples. Also, be able to discuss how your preparations have been shared with students and parents. The district team will be performing walk-throughs over the next several weeks to see your school's preparations in action.

As always, we only succeed when students succeed. Finish Strong!

Lastly, you can now follow Mr. Creasman on Twitter at [#FCSSuper](#) where you can receive information, snapshots of events, or even "I Gotcha Moments." Below is our instructional message for the next few weeks – Finish Strong!



UPCOMING EVENTS		
▪	Monday, April 20, 2015	District Team Meeting at 9:00 am - Board Room
▪	Monday, April 20, 2015	Monthly Cafeteria Manager and Staff meeting at 1:00 pm – Board Room
▪	Monday, April 20, 2015	Certified Evaluation Committee Meeting at 4:00 pm – Board Room
▪	Tuesday, April 21, 2015	Monthly Custodial Meeting at 9:00 am – Board Room
▪	Tuesday, April 21, 2015	Awards Night for Seniors at 6:00 pm – FCHS
▪	Friday, April 24, 2015	The following surveys will close: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The FCS Grading Scale Survey ▪ The Principal Selection Survey for EES and FCHS