



Community Unit School District #205

..... Helping Students Achieve Their Dreams

Curriculum & Instruction

May

Have a great Summer Break!

Great News!

Upcoming Dates

June 4 - Last Day of School!

June 5 - Teacher Institute

Summer Reading Program

Governor Bruce Rauner, Secretary White and State Superintendent Tony Smith are asking all schools to encourage students across the State of Illinois to access free online tools designed to promote reading, maintain math skills and inspire summer learning. We need our over 2 million public school students to utilize their summer vacation reading good books and planning learning activities. The online "Find a Book" search tool provides a way for parents and students to find books.



PARCC States Vote to Shorten Test Time

Washington, DC (May 21, 2015) – The PARCC Governing Board, made up of the state education commissioner superintendents, voted to consolidate the two PARCC testing windows into one in order to reduce the total test time by about 90 minutes beginning in the 2015-16 school year. The vote came in response to school district and teacher feedback during the first year of testing and a careful review of the test design.

The changes will improve and simplify test administration for schools, teachers and students, without diminishing the goal of the assessment in order to ensure that every student in every school is being taught what they need to know in order to be successful in college or careers.

The test design changes are as follows:

- Reduces testing time for students by about 90 minutes overall (60 minutes in mathematics; 30 minutes in ELA)
- Consolidate two testing windows in mathematics and ELA (The window will extend roughly the 75% mark to the 90% mark of the school year.
- Reduce the number of test units for all students by two or three units.

Testing leads to failure, and failure leads to understanding.

Burt Rutan



Lifelong Learning

Great teachers and staff help create great students. In fact, research shows that inspiring and informed teachers and staff are the most important school-related factor influencing student achievement. Teacher and staff preparation not only includes opportunities to take classes, view webinars, and collaborating with colleagues, it also includes the lessons that we learn from our lives and our travels. We must all engage in “Lifelong learning.” The pursuit of knowledge for either personal or professional reasons keeps us motivated, helps us to obtain personal growth, and enhances social contact with others. Learning new ideas, tasks, and ways of doing things helps to connect us to the world around us, our peers, and the students that we serve. Everywhere we go and everything that we do offers us opportunities to learn new ideas and new concepts. (Yeaxlee)



Math Practice

Practice makes perfect, and IXL makes math practice fun! IXL sets a new standard for online learning, offering unlimited, algorithmically generated questions; real-time analytical reports; and dynamic scoring to encourage mastery. Released in 2007, it has since become the world's most popular subscription-based learning site for K–12. With more than 4,000 unique and challenging skills to master, IXL offers a dynamic and enjoyable environment suitable for any learning style. Students who use IXL are succeeding like never before. Please encourage students to practice their math over the Summer Break. (www.ixl.com-Pre-K thru 12th)



Literature Circles

Whether they are called *literature discussion groups*, *book clubs*, *reading response groups*, or *reading clubs*, members of Literature Circles come together to discuss and respond to a book that they are reading at the same time. They should be structured to provide scaffolding for students. In some models, roles are assigned to members of the group to help the group function more productively and remain focused on the chosen book or related topic. In **Literature Circles**, students use their experiences to create meaning, make connections, and have lively discussions about the book. The emphasis is on thoughtful dialogue in order to share experience and ultimately come to a **deeper understanding** of the piece of literature. I want to encourage students and staff to participate in **Literature Circles** this summer. (TeacherVision)

Read, *Read*, Read, **Read**

Research suggests that students who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better on tests, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge, and better understand of other cultures. It is vital that children enjoy reading. In order to participate in society, students must have powerful literacy abilities. **Over 21 million Americans can't read, 45 million are marginally illiterate and one-fifth of high school graduates can't read their diplomas.** Middle school students read more than any other age group. If we can get students to read at least **15 minutes a day** on their own, they will be exposed to over a million words of text in a year. There are almost **half a million** words in our English language, which **is the largest language on earth.** We must **find incentives** to get students to read books, magazines, newspapers, and on line. (The Literacy Company)

What is going on in Galesburg Community Unit School District #205?

Together with a culture of work, there must be a culture of leisure as gratification. To put it another way: people who work must take the time to relax, to be with their families, to enjoy themselves, read, listen to music, play a sport. **Pope Francis**

Galesburg #205 has continued to sponsor the **Readermania Festival** for over 20 years. Each year, **4th and 5th grade students** who read over **12 books** from appropriate grade lists are provided with ribbons and awards for their hard work. This year, over 3,568 books were read. The 4th grade class at **King Elementary** had the highest average number of books read by all qualifiers. The 5th grade class at **Silas Willard** had the highest average number of books read by all qualifiers. The plaque for most books read, and trophy for most qualifying readers went to **Gale Elementary**.



The **Galesburg Area Vocational Center Building Trades class** finished the wall framing and trusses of the **Habitat House** that they are helping to build. They hope to have the roofing, siding and soffit completed before the end of the school year.



In today's downturned economy with high unemployment, **having a high school diploma is no longer optional**, as it was three generation's past, **but necessary**. Statistics show that more than **60% of job opportunities** in skilled labor require a high school diploma. Employers consider a high school graduate as **someone who remained committed to a goal**. (The American Academy). **Congratulations to the 320 Graduates of Galesburg High School and GHS North.**

CLASS OF

2015!

