



Community Unit School District #205

..... Helping Students Achieve Their Dreams

Curriculum & Instruction

Upcoming Dates

November 26 Early Dismissal

November 27 Thanksgiving

November 28 Holiday No School

December 10 – Early Dismissal

December 19 – Early Dismissal

PARCC

Terminology

Write – create an equation

Drag – click down and hold

Select – use mouse to choose

Complete – choose or enter

Create – utilize a screen tool

Focus

on

Nutrition

Although research linking diet and brain power is still in its infancy, there are important relationships between nutrients and brain health that are worth exploring. Having a nourishing, well rounded diet gives our mental health a boost:

- Nuts & Seeds
- Blueberries
- Broccoli
- Tomatoes
- Oily Fish
- Whole grains

Student Growth

In Illinois, student growth is defined as:

“A measurable change in a student’s or group of student’s knowledge or skills between two or more points of time”

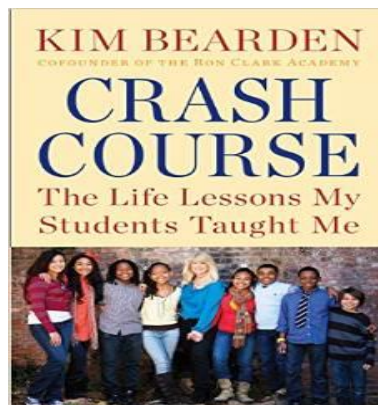
Comparing student knowledge at two or more points in time distinguishes student growth from achievement, where only one assessment is utilized to analyze knowledge. PERA defines assessment by three different types:

Type I Standardized Tests – MAP, ISAT, AIMSweb

Type II School District Tests – Curriculum / Textbook Tests

Type III Teacher Collaboration – Common Assessments/Performance

At this time, we are asking that teachers begin collaborative work on common assessments in their disciplines during Grade Level Meetings, Early Dismissals, and Team Time. The goal of formulating these assessments is to improve student learning.



OPTIMISM

Read page #72
Kim Beardens' book.

Scientific studies show that people who are optimistic live longer and healthier lives!

Why do we exist?

To help children develop
their own personal
capacity in order to
achieve in life!

(What is your answer to this question?)

Pearson – Glencoe – Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Contrary to thought, we have not abandoned the use of textbooks. However, since we have adopted the usage of 1:1 computers with our Chromebooks, our expectation is that textbooks will no longer be our exclusive resource for our curriculum. Instead, we are encouraging teachers to compare and contrast technological resources as well as other informational texts. Accordingly, we want to take advantage of engaging our students in the use of technology. At this time, we are exploring different on-line textbook companies and look to pilot a program next semester. Printed material and technology must support each other. Our students and teachers are capable of adjusting to both.



MAP- Star 360 – AIMSweb

Chances are that most of you are familiar with these testing tools. These assessments are commonly used by most school districts. The goal of the Department of Curriculum & Instruction is to narrow our district focus down to one or two assessments for all of our schools. In order to complete this task, we need your input and feedback. MAP, Star 360, and AIMSweb are the three that we are going to review. If you have other options that can be utilized in grades K-12, please let us know. We can provide you with sample tests and reports. If you would like to be a part of this process, please speak with your principal.



ISBE & Culturally Responsive Teaching

The ISBE is encouraged by the potential of RTI models to improve educational opportunities for culturally and linguistically diverse students and to reduce their disproportionate representation in special education. At the same time, they are concerned that if we do not engage in dialogue about how culture mediates learning, RTI models will simply be wasted. In the Galesburg School System, we have students who speak over 12 different languages from all over the world. We also have a large population of African American, Hispanic, and African students.

Also, considerable research (Delgado-Gaitan & Trueba 1991; Halcón 2001; Moll 2001; Ogbu 2001) indicates, however, that teachers who do not share children's cultures can provide culturally compatible instruction if they understand the children's "cultural funds of knowledge," which can be thought of as the different ways of knowing, communicating, and doing that exist within diverse homes (Moll 1994, 2001).



School **culture** is the set of norms, values and beliefs, rituals and ceremonies, symbols and stories that make up the school. Our goal in Galesburg #205 is to foster positive school cultures.

The **RCA team** has some tools to help promote this type of environment. It is called. **Tools For Triumph**. We want to encourage all schools to post them in your halls and encourage all faculty, staff, students and parents to utilize these tools:

Tools For Triumph

Make eye contact.

Always say "Thank you"

Say "Excuse me"

Respond to adults "Yes ma'am" or "No Sir"

We clean up

Show respect

Congratulate people

If someone drops something, help them pick it up

Do random acts of kindness

Be honest

Accept your mistakes

Hold the door for others

Now let's get running!

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

In teaching you cannot see the fruit of a day's work. It is invisible and remains so, maybe for twenty years. ~Jacques Barzun

Each week, we have members of our faculty and staffs attend trainings and workshops. Several of our teachers are experimenting with **The Flipped Classroom** teaching method. Educational technology and activity learning are the major components of this framework. Students are able to watch lectures of their teachers at home at their own pace. They communicate with peers and the teacher through online discussions. Instead of lectures, class time is reserved for collaborative activities and mastery exercises.

Start with the end in mind, is driving the curriculum planning of many teachers. **Backwards Planning** is nothing new. However, educators often forget to use this concept. Starting with the end means we put the skills, knowledge, and concepts **first**, then the product **second**. **Curriculum planning** with the **Backward Design** involves:

- Reviewing Standards
- Listing skills, concepts, and knowledge students must gain
- Create lessons that lead up to the end
- Mastery of a final project or skill
- A final assessment
- Reflecting on the process

On **Veterans Day**, Nielson faculty had veterans from several wars come in and speak to their classes. Arranging to have guest speakers is not a free day for teachers. It is a lot of work. Finding people with expertise in a given area can be difficult. However, guest speakers offer our students the opportunity to have access to current, realistic information that is not in the curriculum.

Fire Safety

Please contact Dan Foley at the Fire Department if you would like to use **Risk Watch Curriculum** in your classrooms.