

Community Unit School District #205

...... Helping Students Achieve Their Dreams

Curriculum & Instruction

January 2015

Upcoming Dates

January 16 – End of Quarter
February 11 – Early Dismissal
February 12- Lincoln's Birthday
February 14 - Valentine's Day

February 16- President's Day February 19- Early Dismissal

What is Data?

- Assessments
- Observations
- Projects
- Essays
- Homework

Using Data to

Make Decisions!

Good coaches look at stats
after every game. From
these stats, coaches
determine what to work on
at practice. This same
concept should be utilized
by teachers. Student data
should be analyzed and
interpreted in order to
formulate a plan for student
growth and improvement.
Once we have summarized
the data, we know what we
need to practice.





Illinois Vision 20/20 Initiative

21st Century Learning

For success in life, students need more than knowledge of math and reading. It is time to expand the definition of student learning, commit to the development of the "whole child," and invest in policies proven to link all schools to 21st century learning tools.

- Develop the "Whole Child"
- Preserve Instructional Time
- Invest in Early Childhood Education
- Link Students to College and Careers
- Expand Equity in Technology Access

PARCC Test Windows

March 9 – April 3

What is most important right now?

People who trust and care about one another and are engaged in something important such as education should feel compelled to disagree, and sometimes passionately. Only then can we commit to a plan of action!

The Advantage

Visual Learning



On January 14, 2015, several staff members, community people, and School Board members Natalie and Josh attended a tour of the *Ron Clark Academy (RCA)* team classrooms and bathrooms. The classrooms and bathrooms were colorful, bright, and inviting. *Visual Learning* is very important. Although *10%* of secondary students are auditory learners, *80%* of instruction is delivered orally (U of I). *Visual Teaching* is very important. Over 65% of the population is visual learners. *We* must have *colorful hallways*, *classrooms*, *walls*, and *bathrooms* that *teach*. *Please take a minute to visit the RCA rooms!*

- ❖ 90% of information that comes to the brain is visual. (Hyerle)
- ❖ Our eyes can register **36,000** *visual messages per hour*. (Jensen)
- ❖ 40% of all nerves to the brain come from the retina. (Jensen)
- ❖ The brain processes visual *60,000 times faster* than text. (3M)

"If one wants to reach younger people at an earlier age to shape their minds in a critical way, you really need to know how ideas and emotions are expressed visually!" Martin Scorese



African American History Month

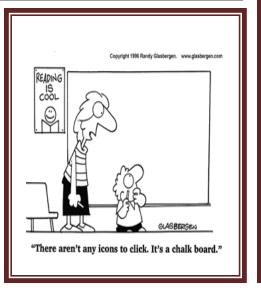
February is designated as *African American History Month*. Harvard-trained historian, Carter G. Woodson, like W. E. B. Du Bois before him, hopes were to raise awareness of African American's contributions to civilization. Although February is designated as African American History Month, I encourage all teachers to incorporate *multicultural, afrocentric, women's studies*, and *linguistics* into your daily lessons. Every area of our curriculum has been touched by diverse groups. We need to honor and celebrate their contributions. It also manifests an *acceptance* of diverse cultures, ethnic backgrounds, and languages. This approach to teaching and learning does not take time out of your day or lessons. *Allow* the students to speak of their experiences and to conduct research on their own.(History.com)



Project Based Learning

One of the first questions about the Common Core Standards is, What will it look like? The answer is: Very different. The internationally benchmarked standards will emphasize creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, presentation and demonstration, problem solving, research and inquiry, and career readiness. Teachers will have to teach with greater depth of understanding rather than coverage, memorizing or listing, and demonstrating and performing rather than worksheets. Successful implementation of the new standards will require teachers to utilize innovative best practices such as Project—Based Learning (PBL). PBL, done well, will help us to accomplish these goals. The new Gifted Enrichment Curriculum for fourth graders emphasizes this concept. However, PBL is not just good for elementary students, it is good for all students. Teaching inquiry and skillful problem solving places the quest for knowledge in the hands of the students instead of the teacher banking all of the knowledge. We must stimulate reflective critical thinking and deeper engagement. (Thom Markham, 2012).

Galesburg schools have been listed as a *Priority District* for **Health Education**. Why? School Districts around the state with high numbers of teen pregnancy and instances of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) are being monitored. How does this affect our schools? Our high school and middle school Health teachers are mandated to teach *abstinence* as well as the use of *contraception*. They have been provided with a curriculum called *Flash* in order to support the work that they are already doing. Studies have shown that districts with Exemplary Sexual health **Education** programs have a positive effect on the overall academic performance of their students. Reading and Math scores are improved. We feel that our Health teachers are topnotch. Several of them have been to trainings this year. Changes in curriculum are affecting everyone! We have over 21 students in our **Parents as Teachers Program.** They are serving students from the middle school through high school. We want to ensure that these students have the opportunity to graduate and learn good



parenting skills.

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

"Please do not confine children to your style of learning for they were born in another time!" Chinese Proverb

Creating an environment that values and promotes student achievement cannot be the sole responsibility of educators and the schools. It requires the concerted effort of the entire community. *Community Partnerships* provide huge rewards for both partners. **King School** has partnered with **Knox College** and **the First Presbyterian Church** in order to provide students with **Blessings in a Backpack.** Every Friday, eligible students receive a bag of food to take home with them. This program runs the entire year. We know nationwide, over 23% of school age children live in poverty. (nces.org) This program helps to provide children with nutritional supports when school is not in session. Feeding students brains is very important to academic success. King School also recently had their 5th Grade Graduation through the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Program. This school-based substance abuse, gang violence prevention program is in 75% of the schools across the United States and in 48 countries. Students in this program sign a pledge not to use drugs or join gangs. Gale, Steele, Nielson, and Silas also participate in the DARE Program with local police officers .(dare.org)

The Illinois Statewide Young Authors' Contest is an event sponsored by the Illinois Language and Literacy Council and the Illinois Reading Council. It is designed as a celebration to honor exceptional writing by students in grades K through 8. This contest provides an opportunity for young writers to create characters and stories that can become books. Students at Churchill and Lombard have created some very elaborative and imaginative stories. Many of the stories are based on facts. The students have conducted extensive research. We must encourage our students to participate in these types of writing projects. Studies show that only 7 to 15% of classroom time is spent studying *Informational text.* Yet, by sixth grade, most of what students are required to read is nonfiction. Understanding informational text is critical to students' future success in higher education and the workplace. Reading, writing, and discussing biographies, historical books, and technical **texts** will help to improve their skills. (Reading A-Z)