



Community Unit School District #205

..... Helping Students Achieve Their Dreams

Curriculum & Instruction

Upcoming Dates

Oct. 30 – End of Quarter

Oct. 31 No School

Nov. 2 – Change clocks

Tips

For

The

Classroom...

Learning Objectives

- *Relate to the standards
- *Post learning objectives
- *Make objectives relevant
- *Should be observable
- *Check for mastery

Focus on the

'Whole Child'

When a student is not progressing as expected, we must identify the reasons for this impediment. Addressing the social and emotional wellbeing of our students is very important. Although we want them to master targeted skills, we also want to be responsive to their other needs.

Common Core Update

There continues to be much discussion about the **Common Core**. Our goal in District #205 is to continue to offer our students a rigorous, authentic, meaningful learning experience that will promote mastery of the skills needed to prepare them for college and the work place. Teachers are encouraged to utilize their individual expertise to modify their lessons and align the curriculum to meet the needs of their students. The Language Arts skills and Mathematical skills that are being stressed are applicable to all subject areas. For example, even the youngest children should be reading and writing every day. The new standards also challenge students to find **evidence** to support their answers, and to compare and contrast different positions.



You do not have to juggle all of the work by yourself. Working collaboratively in teams for a common goal makes our school system run more effectively. Working with critical friends increases productivity. Effective collaboration and teamwork far outweigh the benefits of working as an individual.

Time Management

- Make a **"Things to Do"** list
- Work **smarter** not **harder**
- Formulate a daily **schedule**
- Always make time to **rest**

Have you visited...

- visuwords.com
- www.khanacademy.org
- www.wordle.net
- www.sharemylesson.com

Textbooks

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 are capable of adjusting to both.



"And this is Charles, our webmaster."

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Investment in Early Childhood Education

Galesburg Community Unit School District is committed to Early Childhood Education. Since 1986, the district has successfully operated Bright Futures Preschool Center.



Although many of their activities may appear to be play to adults, the children are learning mathematical concepts, science, and measuring as well as many other academic skills. The school currently has more than 200 students enrolled. However, there is room for several more. Please have any interested families call 973-2031.

The Purpose of Grading & Report Cards



The purpose of grading and report cards is to provide quality and specific feedback to students and their families. Progress being made towards learning objectives and goals can also be determined. We are continuing to review our report cards at the elementary school level. In the future, we will continue to work with families and our staff in order to revise and develop an effective reporting tool.

*There are over 215 **Infectious Diseases**. Today, most of the media attention is given to the spread of the **Ebola Virus**. Our goal is to properly educate ourselves as well as our community. Although Ebola is receiving most of the media attention, since the 1970's, only 4,869 people have died from this disease worldwide and only one in the United States. However, each year, over 30,000 people die from the **Flu**. Good health tips are as follows:*

- *Wash hands frequently*
 - *Don't share personal items*
 - *Cover your mouth when coughing*
 - *Get vaccinated*
 - *Use safe cooking habits*
 - *Be a safe traveler*
 - *Don't touch your nose and mouth*
 - *Exercise caution with animals*
 - *Stay up on current events*
-

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

*" The greatest sign of success for a teacher... is to be able to say,
" The children are now working as if I did not exist" Maria Montessori*

***Parent-Teacher Conferences** are a chance to update parents on the progress of their children. Please explain to parents what Learning Targets you have been working on so far this year. What tasks have they been completing in class along the way? Describe their strengths and areas for improvement. Also, let **parents** know what they need to do in order to support work at home.*

*Congratulations to **Silas Willard's** faculty, administration, staff, students and families. They held their ground breaking ceremony on October 22, 2014. Construction will begin on the new school right away. The school is slated to open January 2016. The facility will be able to accommodate over 600 students. The two level building will encompass a 21Century learning environment and technology. It will also be equipped with a full size gymnasium and cafeteria. We appreciate the support of our local community.*

***Gale School's Chess Club** has gotten off to a great start. According to research, test scores in students who started participating in chess improved 17%. It strengthens students' analytical, synthetic and decision-making skills. Consider chess for your school!*

*Galesburg High School's **Golf** team won 3rd Place at the State Tournament. We are proud of you!!!*