

School Matters

District School Board of Pasco County
Kurt S. Browning, Superintendent of Schools

January 24, 2014



Chasco Middle School State Seatbelt Contest Winners

The Florida Highway Patrol and Pasco Sheriff's Office recognized six students this week as finalists in the FHP seatbelt safety poster contest. Their posters will be included in the FHP calendar.



Common Core State Standards (Florida Standards)

The Florida Board of Education has adopted a new name for the Common Core State Standards. The newly-named "Florida Standards" also now will include some Florida-specific standards. We don't see a lot of difference in the additions compared to what we are implementing here in Pasco, and if changing the name alleviates some of the concerns about the Standards, then I support the change.

It is important to have open conversations with district leaders, administrators, teachers, parents, and students about what we are truly trying to achieve through the Standards. It is not about single methods or slowing down progress, but about developing critical thinking and creative problem solving, and we need to work together to get there. We've held three community meetings so far, and staff has done a terrific job educating participants about what the Standards are and are not. Make sure parents and community members know the upcoming schedule of meetings. [Click here](#) for the schedule.



James M. Marlowe Elementary Named Imagine Nation School

James M. Marlowe Elementary School recently was notified that they qualified as a 2012–2013 Imagine Nation Top 10 Percent School. Marlowe Elementary bested thousands of other Imagine Learning schools to become one of the top 10 percent of Imagine Learning software users.

Happy 25th Anniversary SSES!

Seven Springs Elementary School will be celebrating their 25th anniversary on Saturday, March 8, from noon until 4 p.m. Visit the SSES Facebook page for updates on details.



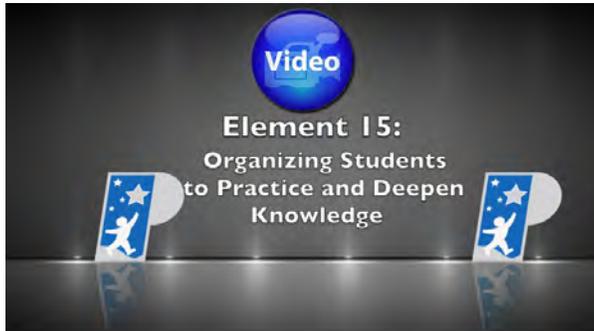
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FRAMEWORK FOCUS



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
OF PASCO COUNTY

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“We learn by pushing ourselves and finding what really lies at the outer reaches of our abilities.”

— Josh Waitzkin

Click the button below to access Canvas.Pasco for more information.



Element 15 - Organizing Students to Practice and Deepen New Knowledge

Desired Effect: Students are able to deepen their knowledge of informational content and practice a skill, strategy, or process through group work.

Why group students to deepen their knowledge?

Element 15 involves the teacher organizing students into groups to review content knowledge, practice procedural skills, and experience the content from multiple perspectives. Organizing students into groups for collaborative practice is one way to bridge the gap in the learning process from whole-class guided practice to independent practice. Some strategies associated with this element include:

- Cooperative learning
- Cooperative comparisons
- Performances and peer critiques

How can I organize students to deepen their knowledge?

- Norms and roles are needed to ensure small and large group success.
- Allow students to record their individual thoughts and ideas before conferring with a partner or group in order to increase accountability.
- If grading, avoid using team points to determine students' scores or grades.



Evidence of Element 15 – Organizing Students to Practice and Deepen New Knowledge

Teacher Evidence

Focus: The teacher uses grouping in ways that facilitate practicing and deepening knowledge.

The Teacher:

- organizes students into groups with the expressed ideas of deepening their knowledge
- organizes students into groups with the expressed ideas of practicing a skill, strategy, or process

Student Evidence

Students:

- can explain how the group work supports their learning
- interact in explicit ways to deepen their knowledge of informational content, or practice a skill, strategy, or process such as the following:
 - asking each other questions
 - obtaining feedback from their peers

Strategies for Organizing Students to Practice and Deepen New Knowledge

Think-Pair-Share

The teacher groups students in pairs and presents a problem. For a predetermined time each student individually thinks about the problem. Then, each student takes turns sharing his or her thoughts, ideas, and possible solutions with his or her partner. Partners discuss and then come to a consensus about their solution. The teacher then asks pairs to share what they decided with the class.

Peer Feedback

Students are grouped in pairs. One partner observes the other complete a process or perform a task. Using the evaluation criteria provided by the teacher, one partner analyzes the other's performance and offers feedback about errors, missteps, and/or successes.

Pair-Check

1. Place students in groups of four and form pairs (two pairs per group). Designate who will be Partner A and Partner B.
2. Using a set of problems or questions, Partner A works on the first question while Partner B coaches them when necessary.
3. For the second problem or question, the partners reverse roles.
4. The pair checks their answers with the other pair in their group.
5. The goal is for each member of the group to reach consensus about each solution.



Click the Canvas.Pasco button to access more examples.