



School Matters

District School Board of Pasco County

Kurt S. Browning, Superintendent of Schools

February 7, 2014



You did it!
Congratulations

“2014-2015 Champions of Pasco”

Teacher of the Year

Patrick Connolly, LOLHS math teacher

School Related Personnel of the Year

Karen Zummo, TEWMS custodian

Non-instructional Non-bargaining Employee of the Year

Joshua Nelson, OTIS network analyst

School-based Administrator of the Year

Jason Joens, RRMS principal

District-based Administrator of the Year

Vanessa Hilton, director of Teaching and Learning

I just wanted to thank you and your staff for coming out to Wesley Chapel High School tonight to help us understand Common Core, and for answering all our questions. Thank you to all for your candor and your time.

Sincerely and gratefully yours,
Miggie Bade

Florida Standards (CCSS)



Check out the latest news on the district's Common Core webpage. This week, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce released a report supporting the new standards, called “Common Core – College- and Career-Ready Standards.”

Next week's community meetings are Tuesday, Feb. 11, at Hudson High School, and Thursday, Feb. 13, at River Ridge High School.

STEM Fair

The Regional Science and Engineering Fair will be held this Saturday, February 8, at the River Ridge Middle/High School campus. Everyone is invited to come out and support our young scientists in this year's event. Public viewing of projects takes place between noon and 2:30 p.m.



Florida Cabinet Recognizes GTES Teacher, CHMS Students

Carol Dintino (pictured far right), a 5th grade STEM teacher at GTES, received the Governor's SHINE Award at the Cabinet meeting on Thursday. The six CHMS students highlighted in last week's *School Matters* also were recognized during the meeting.

Calling All Writers, Photographers, and Artists...

Pasco eSchool is collecting items for the 2nd annual Digital Art & Literary Magazine. Visit the Pasco eSchool website for directions for submitting your original art, writing, and photography. Encourage students to enter, too.



SLHS Cheerleaders are State Champs

Sunlake Cheerleaders made history for the school when they were named State Champions at the FHSAA Competitive Cheerleading Finals.



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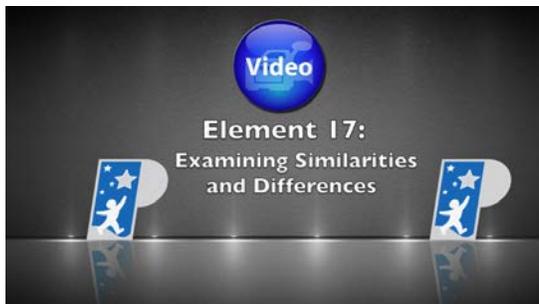
@kurtsbrowning
@ameliadgvl
@cobbelinda

FRAMEWORK FOCUS



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
OF PASCO COUNTY

Kurt S. Browning, Superintendent of Schools



“Understanding the relationship between two concepts is like developing the insight that sparks inspiration.”

— Anthony Stark

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



Element 17 – Examining Similarities and Differences

Desired Effect: Students can examine and explain similarities and differences to deepen their knowledge.

Why use strategies that examine similarities and differences?

Being able to see similarities and differences between topics allows students to discover patterns and make connections, which is fundamental to cognitive processes. Strategies aimed at examining similarities and differences can boost student achievement by creating opportunities for students to link, connect, and synthesize ideas in order to deepen their understanding of the content. These strategies can lead to engagement of rich discussions, which link ideas and foster student construction of new insights.

How can I help students examine similarities and differences?

- When planning lessons, look for topics that allow for extended comparisons.
- Model how to create and use comparisons, classifications, similes, metaphors, and analogies.
- Ask students to explain and justify their reasoning.
- Ask students to revise their comparisons and classifications after discussing them with peers.



Evidence of Element 17 – Examining Similarities and Differences

Teacher Evidence

Focus: When the content is informational, the teacher helps students deepen their knowledge by examining similarities and differences.

Teachers:

- Engages students in activities that require students to examine similarities and differences between content
 - Comparison activities
 - Classifying activities
 - Analogy activities
 - Metaphor activities
- Facilitates the use of these activities to help students deepen their understanding of content
 - Asks students to summarize what they have learned from the activity
 - Asks students to explain how the activity has added to their understanding

Student Evidence

Students:

- By artifacts, indicate that they can identify similarities and differences
- By artifacts, indicate that their knowledge has been extended as a result of the activity
- When asked about the activity, respond in such a way that demonstrates they have deepened their understanding
- When asked, can explain similarities and differences



Strategies for Examining Similarities and Differences

Student-Generated Classification Patterns

Students are asked to find representative examples of different concepts and sort them into categories based on what they have learned in class. Students can pair up or form groups to share their patterns with their peers, discuss and explain why they created their pattern, and modify their pattern after hearing others' perspectives.

Similes

Students can state comparisons using “like” or “as.” They can also include an explanation of why one object is like the other and can revise their similes after discussing them with their peers.

Metaphors

Metaphors can be used to state comparisons. Comparisons are stated as direct relationships in a metaphor. For example, “life is a journey.” Metaphors are sometimes abstract and can be extended to include more than one comparison. Students should explain why their metaphors are appropriate.



Click the Canvas.Pasco button to access more examples.