The students listed below will represent Pasco at the Florida Music Educators Association Clinic/Conference in January, where top individual performers from across the state come together to perform.

Shane Falco – Trumpet, All-State Middle School Band
Hudson Middle School
Band Director, John Keon

Troy Moeller – Euphonium, 9-10 All-State Concert Band
Sunlake High School
Band Director, Tonya O’Malley

Colin Gaynor – Bb Clarinet, 11-12 All-State Symphonic Band
J. W. Mitchell High School
Band Director, Joel Quina

Kaitlin Greenough – Bb Clarinet, 11-12 All-State Symphonic Band
Zephyrhills High School
Band Director, Russell Schmidt

Jeffrey Fittipaldi – Percussion, 11-12 All-State Symphonic Band
Land O’ Lakes High School
Band Director, Lauren Yacht

Anandpall Rehsi – Percussion, 11-12 All-State Symphonic Band
Land O’ Lakes High School
Band Director, Lauren Yacht

Shane Gillen – Bassoon, 11-12 All-State Symphonic Orchestra
Gulf High School
Band Director, Bill Rutherford

Rachel Gartland – Percussion, Middle School Honors Band
River Ridge Middle School
Band Director, Travis Henry

Pssst! If you know a teacher, pass this on…
Florida Humanities Council workshops for teachers begin in January. These professional development workshops, designed to bring the study of Florida into the classrooms, explore Colonial St. Augustine, Historical Pensacola, Florida Civics, the Seminole Tribe, Florida Agriculture, and so much more! Inservice certificates are issued. The deadline to apply is November 30th. Open to K-20 teachers and museum and park educators. Here is the link: http://www.flahum.org/Teachers/TF_PD#.Un0AxvnktYU.

Protest by Common Core Opponents is Bad for Kids
I recently heard about a group that is urging parents not to send their kids to school on November 18th in protest of Common Core. I must admit that, if true, this action would be irresponsible. There are certainly better ways for parents to share their concerns about Common Core than to have their student miss valuable instructional time. The Pasco School District is a strong supporter of the Common Core State Standards, and the Pasco School Board passed a resolution on Tuesday memorializing this support. My hope is that anyone who hears that a parent is considering keeping their student home in protest would urge that parent to use a more responsible way to make their feelings known. We are planning a series of community meetings starting in January to explain the new standards and to answer questions that parents may have. Details of these community meetings will be announced soon. We need to encourage our students to be in class every day to take advantage of quality instruction. Our goal is to provide our students with opportunities for college, career and life readiness.

November is Parent Involvement Month.
FrameWork Focus

Desired Effect: Students can link prior knowledge to new content.

Why Preview New Content?

Providing an opportunity for students to preview the content in some way allows students to begin thinking about the new content, activate prior knowledge, and make linkages between the two. Research has shown that previewing techniques, such as advanced organizers and cues, create direct links between previous learning and new content and are associated with a 32-percentile gain in student achievement. Previewing is especially important for students who have limited background knowledge about the topic.

Examples of Previewing

✓ Before watching a video on Pythagoras, a math teacher might ask students to watch for the many different math discoveries credited to Pythagoras. A discussion can follow the video on the different contributions made by Pythagoras before introducing the critical-input activity on the Pythagorean Theorem.

✓ A music teacher might ask the following preview questions when introducing a lesson on jazz or blues. What do you already know about jazz or blues music? What is a jazz or blues artist’s role in society?

Visit our YouTube channel to see all of our Professional Development videos.

“Previewing content stimulates cognitive thinking. It also activates prior knowledge and sparks student interest.”

Susan Seibert
Asst. Principal, Paul R. Smith
Evidence of Element 8 - Previewing New Content

Teacher Evidence

Focus: The teacher engages students in activities that help them link what they already know to the new content about to be addressed and facilitates these linkages.

The teacher:

- uses preview questions before reading;
- uses the KWL strategy or a variation of it;
- asks or reminds students what they already know about a topic;
- provides an advanced organizer;
- has students brainstorm;
- uses an anticipation guide;
- uses motivational hook/launching activities like anecdotes or short selection from video;
- uses word splash activities to connect vocabulary to upcoming content.

Student Evidence

Students:

- can explain linkages with prior knowledge;
- make predictions about upcoming content;
- provide a purpose for what they are about to learn;
- actively engage in previewing.

Previewing Strategies

Anticipation Guide

Create a series of statements that are related to new content you are preparing to teach. Students respond to the statements with T/F or Agree/Disagree feedback and facilitate class discussions to activate prior knowledge or consider new ideas.

Word Splash

Use this strategy to effectively preview vocabulary and concepts linked to the new content. Present a list of words and short phrases for students to sort into categories that make sense to them. Facilitate groups sharing their sorting strategies to spark discussions.

Skimming

Students can skim any written content for the upcoming lesson to preview and make linkages to what they already know. Skimming can be most valuable when structured to include:

- Major headings and sub-headings
- Main ideas
- Picture descriptions
- Predictions of what students think they will learn

Click the Canvas.Pasco button to access more examples.