



# Staff Development Newsletter

## Is It Mastery Or Activities??

As the school year gets underway, lesson planning moves to the forefront of teachers' minds. What am I teaching? How will I teach it? What do my students need?

Always begin your lesson planning with the mastery objective. In this way, you will have a clear goal established for student learning, and the content of your lesson is built from that objective.

Mastery objectives are derived from your curriculum indicators. They state exactly what students will know and be able to do by the end of your lesson. Be-

cause they are written daily and are specific, mastery objectives are not the same as your curriculum indicators.

Questions to ask yourself when writing your mastery objectives:

- Is it specific in terms of the curriculum?
- Does it name an active observable behavior?
- Is it in kid-friendly language (or are terms explained)?
- Is it measurable?

During your lesson, communicate this mastery objective to students regularly. Be

explicit in the connection between what students are doing and the objective.

Ask them, tell them, show them! Students should always know where you are taking them.



Another benefit to mastery objectives? Classroom management! A clear goal connected to meaningful learning experiences equals student engagement in learning.

For any support with writing mastery objectives, see Kirsten C. or another colleague.

## Relationships, Rigor, Relevancy

As these concepts are the driving focus of our work at LPMS this year, consider the order in which they are presented. Relationships comes first. This is intentional because when you build personal relationships with students, anything is possible! Your classroom atmos-

phere is more positive, students are more open to learning, and they will work harder for you.

Here are some ideas:

- \* Attend an extra-curricular activity your students are involved in.
- \* Make positive phone calls home.

\* Do a "Getting to Know You" activity and use the information!

\* Share some of your background, interests, and experiences with your students. This creates an opportunity for students to connect to you.

\* Designate a space in your room for students to bring in pictures of their family, interests, pets, etc. It's a visual reminder that they are welcome in your room.

Attention!

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New Tuition Reimbursement Procedures!

The process of completing Form 440-13, 11, or 14 has been replaced by a web based form on PDO.

HOW:

1. Log onto PDO
2. Click on Tuition Reimbursement tab
3. Click on New Request button
4. Complete the online form with your information.
5. Save, then print the form and Pony it to URSC/ OOD with your receipt of payment and documentation of your grade .
6. Monitor your request status from the Tuition Reimbursement tab in PDO.

### Did You Know???

- Elizabeth Fenner works at an equine veterinary clinic on the weekends and provides care for 2 horses three evenings a week? This is in addition to working with our School Community Based students!

Send your items for this column to Kirsten C.

## PDO Courses

Check out the PDO for courses available for registration NOW!

A few highlights...

EB- 60 Teaching ESOL students in mainstream classes

FL- 16 Spanish for Staff

HR- 16 Diversity Conscious Education

HR- 17 Ethnic Groups in American Society

...and many more!

See Kirsten C. for support in registering.

Our newsletter can also be found on the LPMS website.

  
**GO FALCONS**

## Edline and Pinnacle Tips

Pinnacle:

- Be sure you are using your scroll bar when in your gradebook so you don't miss any students
- When entering an assignment, be sure to select a category to attach it to from the drop down menu (this is where you can also select the "ungraded" category)

Edline:

- The first transfer from Pinnacle to Edline will take place on Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> so please have your Edline page ready by that date
- Be consistent when naming your classes. Use this format: Period \_\_, Subject
- Please post assignments on Edline
- Need help? Contact me via email at Kelly\_H\_Gowetski@mcpsmd.org

View and print your latest teaching certificate online:  
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/personnel/certification/>  
No need to wait for updates in the mail!

## Do Your Eyes Light Up?

When Dr. LaVerne Kimball, community superintendent, visited us during pre-service week, she showed us a clip from an interview with Toni Morrison. In it, Ms. Morrison reflected on her face when her children went off to school. Did they see a critical face? A worried face? An irritated face?

What do your students see on your face when they enter your classroom? What might the impact be of your eyes lighting up

What would you like to see in our Staff Development Newsletter?



Please email your suggestions to Kirsten C.

each time you see every one of your students?

### Concerning A Teacher's Influence

"I have come to the frightening conclusion that I am the decisive element in the classroom. It's my personal approach that creates the climate. It's my daily mood that makes the weather. As a teacher, I possess a tremendous power to make a child's life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration. I can humiliate or humor, hurt or heal. In all situations, it is my response that decides whether a crisis will be escalated or de-escalated, and a child humanized or dehumanized."

- Haim Ginott

Education is not the filling of a bucket but the lighting of a fire



-W.B. Yeats