

RSU #10 Staff Updates, Tips, & Resources



February 21, 2021

Originally I had intended for this newsletter to go out in time for Valentine's Day. I found [this little article](#) that reminded me of my husband, who also makes coffee for me every morning, dinner most every night, and performs many other tasks that keep this family going. He is our backbone and often these feats go unacknowledged. If you have a person who supports you and makes your life better, I hope you had some quiet down time over vacation to spend with and enjoy that person.



Here's a little advice from Ralph Waldo Emerson -- "Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day."

Happy last week of February,
Leanne

CIA & Updates

We are working on a proposal to take to the board about changes for the third semester, March 15th. Why?

We started school with shortened and fewer days of in-person learning. Our schools are safe with very low overall numbers of [reported COVID-19 cases](#).

It was always our intent to bring students back for longer school days and more in-person learning days.

- We held a staff forum to hear your concerns, discuss our thinking, and answer questions. [Google Doc](#)
- A survey will go out asking families to evaluate hybrid and fully remote learning days and to suggest improvements.
- Many teachers are already sending home schedules, holding Zoom meetings, and connecting daily with learners. This is really helpful for families.
- Central Office and technology are going to team up to send recordings to families on how to check grades, get on Google Classroom, where to find schedules, etc.
- We will hold another Staff Forum on Monday, 2/22, at 2:30 at ~ <https://networkmaine.zoom.us/j/88536726076>

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Staff Resources

Grading	From Joe Feldman's <i>Grading for Equity</i> -- "A century ago, before standards, our primary job as educators may have been to compare students to each other and sort them, but with external standards we no longer need to make students compete for grades" (100).
Remote Learning	According to <i>The Distance Learning Playbook</i> , "At some point in every lesson, students should know what they are supposed to learn" (80). Module 5 focuses on Teacher Clarity and how to break standards into concepts / skills and then learning intentions. If you are looking for specific actions or influences on student learning, go to www.visiblelearningmetax.com . Anything at or above .4 effect size should accelerate student learning.
Trauma-Informed Practices	Marc Brackett Ph.D.'s book <i>Permission to Feel</i> offers the practice of naming emotions especially if you work with students needing support with behavior. "When you can understand and name your emotions, something magical happens. The mere fact of acknowledgment creates the ability to shift. When we don't have the words for our feelings we lack authorship for our own lives" (119).
A Tiny Little Tidbit	The 5-Minute Journal asks the questions below and espouses writing the answers to these as a daily practice ~ <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. I am grateful for...2. What would make today great?3. Daily affirmation. I am...4. 3 Amazing things that happened today...5. How could I have made today even better?

Leanne's Current List 'O Stuff --

- I am studying [Permission to Feel](#) by Marc Brackett Ph.D., [Grading for Equity](#) by Joe Feldman, and the [Distance Learning Playbook](#) by Fisher et al.
- And my fun book is [The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue](#) by V. E. Schwab.

A big thank you to all the folks who wrote to us with kind words & encouragement!

Questions? Comments? Contact me -- [Leanne Condon lcondon@rsu10.org](mailto:LeanneCondon@rsu10.org)