

Curriculum and Instruction Newsletter

Integrating Formative Assessments in Our Classrooms

Formative assessment is an ongoing process which takes place during instruction. When teachers are continually collecting feedback throughout the lesson, they have the opportunity to adjust the teaching and learning taking place through classrooms in real time. According to the Council of Chief State School officers (CCSSO), a major U.S. organization composed of individuals who head the educational system of each state, the key features to consider when integrating this strategy are:

- ⇒ Formative assessment is a *process*, not any particular test.
- ⇒ It is used not just by teachers but by *both teachers and students*.
- ⇒ Formative assessment takes place *during instruction*.
- ⇒ It provides *assessment-based feedback* to teachers and students.
- ⇒ The function of this feedback is to help teachers and students make *adjustments* that will improve students' achievement of intended curricular aims.



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By integrating formative assessments teachers can define their learning targets for multiple groups of students, plan informed lessons, execute those lessons, and collect evidence from the methods employed in class in order to begin the whole process the next day.



New Elementary Math Program

Beginning last year, many of our elementary teachers and administrators have collaborated on examining various elementary programs for our students. Through presentations, trials, and some visitations to neighboring districts, the committee shared their ideas and feedback. We are pleased to announce that we will embark on an exciting math journey with our students through the implementation of the Investigations 3 program. Investigations challenges students to think critically by providing multiple entry points into new learning. Students move beyond the traditionally rote methods of problem solving into real world applications. Students have the opportunity to explore multiple solutions by peer discussion and exploration!

**“Read. Write.
Think.
Every day.”**

Shout Out !!

The Superintendent's Student Advisory Council (SSAC) presented at a Board of Education meeting on March 5th, 2019. These core group of students were chosen to be representatives for their peers in grades 3-12. The SSAC met with the central office administrators to discuss district initiatives ranging from instruction to facilities. Based on their ideas and the feedback received from fellow students, these students offered well-informed suggestions to the members of the Board on how to continue our forward trajectory in the district. Congratulations to the members of the SSAC on a job well-done!

Instructional Toolbox: **Quick Formative Assessment Cards**

This strategy supports active student participation. It allows the teacher a quick check by visually seeing each student's level of understanding by the color of the card they hold up or place on their desk. This assessment can be conducted in groups, pairs, or individually. Each color represents a different level of student understanding. Green indicates the student completely understands the material and can continue working independently. Yellow communicates that the student is beginning to understand the material, but may require more support. Red alerts the teacher's attention to a student who is struggling and may need more re-teaching, re-directing, or individual attention.

