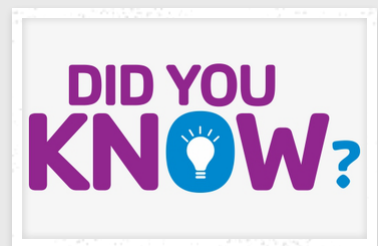


CONTINUING ED. CONNECTION

APRIL 2021

DID YOU KNOW?

- April 2 is Light It Up Blue for Autism Day and the whole month is Autism Awareness Month
- April 22 is Earth Day.
- Poet William Wordsworth, Leonardo da Vinci, and William Shakespeare were all born in April.
- The Diamond Is April's Birth Stone
- Noah Webster Copyrighted the First Edition of His Dictionary in April
- America's first astronauts were announced by NASA on April 9, 1959.
- The Titanic sank on April 15, 1912.
- The Revolutionary War in America began on April 19, 1775.
- The United States Library of Congress was established April 24, 1800.
- Our first President George Washington was inaugurated on April 30, 1789.



REGION 10 ROADSHOW GREENVILLE EDITION!

Mark your calendars now! Region 10 is bring their summer Roadshow back to Greenville.

The Roadshow will be hosted at the CTE Center and GHS on June 22nd and 23rd. A variety of courses and learning opportunities will be incorporated into the event. It will be a great time to collaborate and soak up new information.

Participation in the Region 10 Roadshow will also count towards exchange day credit for the 2021-2022 school year.

More details and information on specific course offerings will be coming soon.

SHOUT OUT!

Christa Glover in the GISD Technology Department recently passed her A+ certification exam. A+ is an entry-level computer certification for PC computer service technicians. The exam is designed to certify the competency of entry-level PC computer service professionals in installing, maintaining, customizing, and operating personal computers. Christa will use this certification to continue to serve GISD's technology needs. Way to go Christa on your continuing education!



APRIL FOCUS:



ENGAGEMENT INCREASES STUDENT SUCCESS!

According to Edutopia, the benefits of student engagement are vast. Research shows that when students are engaged, they are far more successful. Engaging students boosts their cognitive abilities, increases their focus and attention, and motivates higher-level thinking.

Engaged students:

- Experience improved academic achievement and satisfaction
- Are more likely to persist through academic struggles
- Earn higher standardized test scores
- Have better social skills
- Are less likely to drop out of school

In contrast, disengagement:

- Lowers cognitive performance
- Increases disruptive behaviors

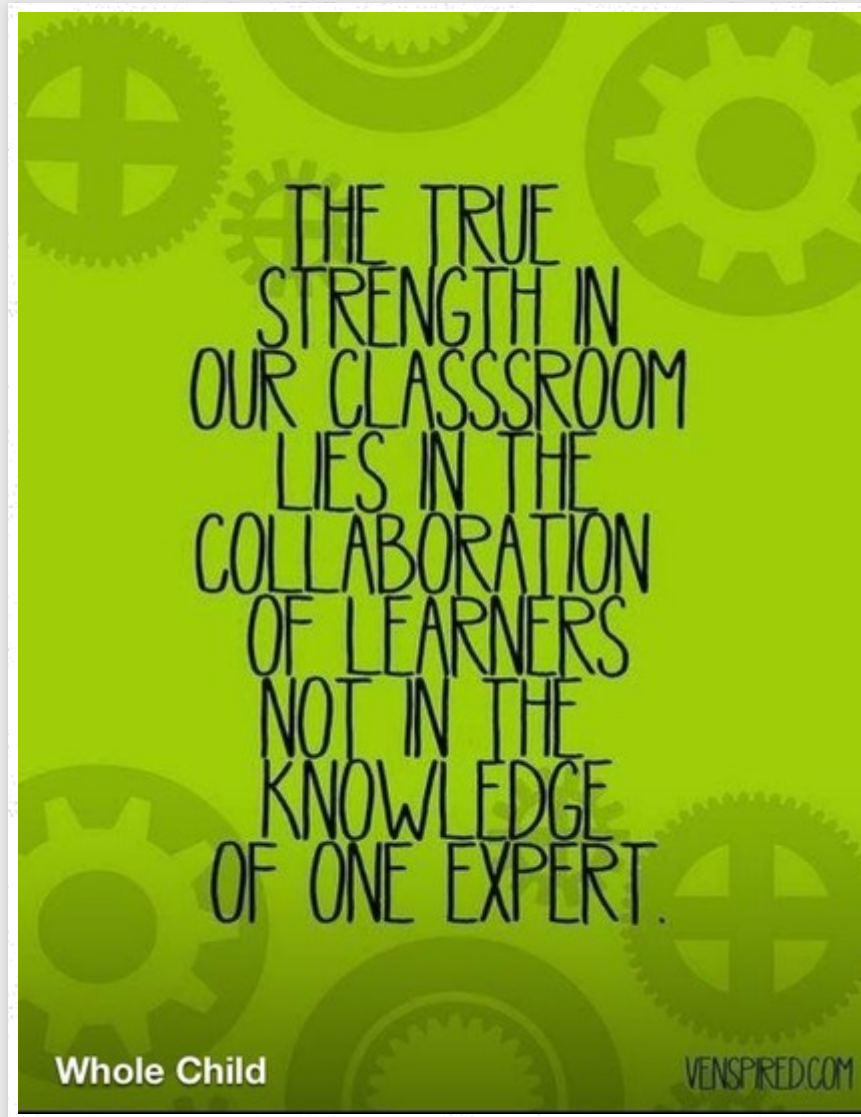
- Causes academic avoidance behaviors
- Exacerbates learning, behavior, and emotional problems
- Increases absenteeism and dropout rates

Student engagement is essential if we want students to reach their full potential.

Read more about the importance and value of engagement:

[Engage Kids With 7 Times the Effect](#)

[Engaging students in learning](#)



HOW TO BOOST ENGAGEMENT

1. Build relationships and be personable
2. Connect learning to the real world
3. Incorporate students' interests into the learning
4. Fill "down time"
5. Utilize collaboration and group strategies
6. Make time for students to share and present
7. Provide choice activities
8. Get your students up and moving

9. Use scaffolding and checkpoints
10. Address off-task behavior by shaking things up
11. Use discovery and inquiry
12. Ask thought-provoking questions
13. Allow for think time
14. Don't be too predictable
15. Provide creative brain breaks
16. Encourage friendly, fun competition
17. Begin lessons with introductory hooks
18. Incorporate laughter and fun
19. Use mixed media
20. Gamify learning

Teacher Tip: Student Engagement in LIVE online classes



Thinking Big About Engagement



5 Minute Engagement Strategies

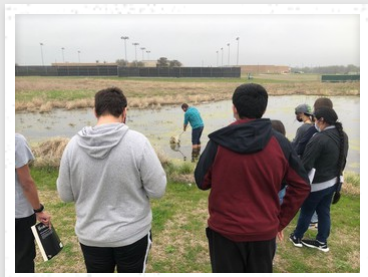
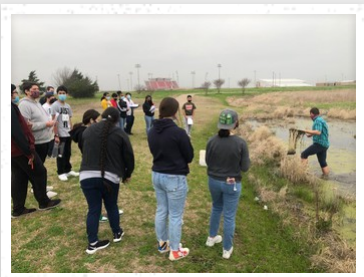


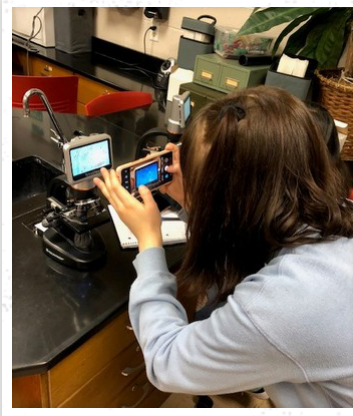
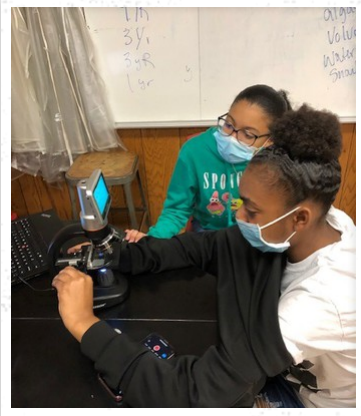
BRINGING BIOLOGY TO LIFE AT ECHS

ECHS Biology teacher, Justin Anderton, boosted student engagement recently by taking his class on an outdoor adventure for a pond ecology lab.

Mr. Anderton decided the best way for students to get interested in the details of their current unit was to immerse them, or in the case immerse himself, in the real-life details. Mr. Anderton took his Freshman Biology students out to the pond beside the high school for some up close learning.

During the outdoor lesson, Mr. Anderton collected pond water samples for the students to observe and analyze later under digital microscopes. While the class was outdoors, students took notes about their observations, were able to look at Duck Weed up close, and ask questions about the pond eco system.





When the students in Mr. Anderton's class were asked what they thought about the lesson, they unanimously responded that they loved the out-of-the-box experience. Some of their statements were:

- "It is nice because we aren't staring at laptops."
- "We got to get out of the classroom and got to do stuff."
- "We get to see it, not just talk about it."
- "It is something different."

After the outdoor lesson, the students used the pond samples to create their own microscope slides in order to view the ecological interactions. This gave them a chance to see living examples of what they were studying. All of the slides and experiment components were student-created and student-driven.

Every student in the class reacted to the engaging lesson in a positive way. Their eagerness and happiness during the experience was evident the whole time. The focus on engagement created an excellent experience for all.

THE BEST CLASSROOM

MANAGEMENT TOOL

IS AN ENGAGING

LESSON.

-SEAN JUNKINS



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

We would love to highlight the wonderful, engaging things happening in GISD. If you or a colleague have student engagement ideas and/or strategies that are working, send us pictures and details. We would love to learn from you and share your success!



CONTINUING EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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