

Continuing Ed. Connection

December 2020

“ Kindness is
a gift everyone can
afford to give.”

– Unknown

Let's Give the Gift of Kindness This Year!

We know that this has been a challenging year for all of us. This is especially important to remember as we continue the holiday season.

Many people and families are experiencing holidays that do not look like anything they have seen before. Between travel concerns, loved ones with health issues, our own health concerns, financial stress, etc., times that are usually full of joy and relaxation are now tense and worrisome. Many of our students and coworkers will not have an easy time over Christmas Break. Some will worry about food, finances, their stressed out family members, and more. Please challenge yourself to keep these things in mind as you go about the next few weeks. With all of that in mind, it is the perfect time to offer extra kindness and grace to those around us.

Giving kindness costs nothing and is so easy! Here are just a few ideas that might bless others:

- Give a compliment to someone, even a stranger.
- Thank the cashiers in the stores for working during extended hours and a busy season.
- Put the stray cart in the parking lot away.
- Send an email to a friend, student, student's family, etc. sharing a positive with them.
- Call or text someone to let them know you miss them or are checking on them.
- Bring a treat or note to a lonely or elderly neighborhood.
- Listen to someone who may not get to see or talk to their family this season.
- Help someone put up their seasonal decorations.
- Bring a plate leftovers to someone in need.
- Donate extra, unused items to the food bank.
- Stay positive and patient when you are in busy stores and lines. Remember, that many places are understaffed and have faced cutbacks.

In every situation, try to challenge yourself to BE KIND! You never know who will need that gift the most!

Check Out These Ideas!

Being Successful With In-Person and Virtual Students

In person

Even if students can't sit together at tables or huddle over math problems in pairs, they will at least be in the same room at the same time. This is the opportunity for peer interaction and collaboration. It's also an opportunity to support kids' social-emotional health by focusing on instructional work that builds relationships. In-person activities could include:

- analyzing student work, sharing their thinking behind how they approached a task;
- collaborating to solve problems;
- conducting a Socratic seminar or debate;
- investigating scientific phenomena;
- conferencing about student writing;
- providing small-group instruction in response to individual student needs;
- introducing a new concept and answering student questions;
- explicit instruction of foundational skills, like phonics;
- and performing music (for safety purposes focusing on percussive, rhythmic, and pitched instruments that do not require breath).



Remote

Students can do more independent work outside of class, but that doesn't mean they shouldn't have any peer interaction. Teachers should also think about how they will integrate students' questions about remote work into in-person lessons. Remote activities could include:

- listening to recorded read-alouds and/or reading text independently;
- listening to a short lecture or video providing direct instruction;
- working on problem sets;
- responding to asynchronous discussion prompts on message boards;
- self-assessment;
- giving peer feedback;
- contributing asynchronously to group projects;
- and writing.

Read more at [EdWeek.Org](https://www.edweek.org)



8 Creative Ideas For Active Learning Activities To Include In Your eLearning Course

The following strategies are suggested by eLearning Industry in regards to successful instructional design during times when eLearning counts so much!

1. Virtual Brainstorming Sessions
2. Q&A eLearning Blogs
3. Branching Scenarios
4. Real-World Mysteries
5. Video Conferencing Debates
6. Thought-Provoking Stories
7. Turn the Tables
8. Course Cliffhangers

Read the details to each strategy [here!](#)

Upcoming Region 10 Opportunities:



December

5th

- Bilingual Certification #164 Test Prep Session
- Secondary ELAR Readers-Writers Workshop Book Study

7th

- Secondary ELAR Readers-Writers Workshop Book Study
- This is Balanced Literacy (K-6)
- VI: Visually Impaired New Teachers Series 201
- TEKS Resource System - Math: Filling the GAPS
- Elementary Math: Making Math Meaningful with Virtual Manipulatives (K-2)
- PBL in Every Classroom
- Elevating ELs with 11 Strategies

8th

- APLA: Servant Leadership in Schools
- CTE Training
- T-TESS Training
- Turning Down the Heat: Preventing Conflict & Counter Aggression
- Designing Essentials Debrief: Designing Learning Experiences for Collaboration
- VI: Assistive Technology
- Building Blocks Literacy Series
- Raising Better Digital Humans
- Comprehending Texts Using Zoom Annotate and Breakout Rooms
- Library Webinar
- World Languages
- Underrepresented GT Populations

9th

- T-TESS Training
- EdLaw
- Accessibility Training
- How to Run an Effective Online Meeting
- Forgotten Voices in History
- Elementary Math: Promoting Problem-solving Through Storytelling

10th

- Youth Mental Health First Aid
- TPSP Implementation Strategies
- T-TESS Training
- Creating a Climate of Culture & Success
- Differentiation with the PLD
- Donnalyn Miller Presents: Supporting Reading Joy During the Pandemic
- Comprehending Texts Using Zoom Annotate and Breakout

- Sheltered Instruction Series

11th

- Digital Interactive Notebooks
- PBL in Every Classroom
- Gifted and Talented: Differentiated Instruction for the Gifted Learner
- Creating Virtual Field Trips
- Planning Science Purposefully with the 5E Model
- Meaningful Math in Pre-K
- Equations & Inequalities in Secondary Math
- Math Routines in Secondary Classrooms
- Purposeful Play in Secondary Math

12th

- Bilingual Certification #164 Test Prep

14th

- Beyond the Surface -Teaching Social Emotional Learning Through Fine Arts
- VI: Visually Impaired Services Training
- Formative Assessment for Effective Feedback

15th

- Library Webinar
- T-TESS Training
- Behavior Management Workshop
- Exploring Digital Tools for Formative Assessment

16th

- Math Routines (K-5)
- T-PESS Training

17th

- Building Strong CTE Programs: Getting Better Faster
- 29 Pieces Education: Artists Making a Kinder World

30th

- Classroom Management I
- Classroom Management II
- Classroom Management III

31st

- Classroom Management IV
- Classroom Management V
- Designing ELAR Lessons Using TRS as the Foundation (Self-paced Training)
- Navigating the ELAR Gap: Implementation Tools



The Continuing Education Department would like to wish everyone a wonderful Holiday Break! We hope you enjoy your time off and find ways to relax and reenergize. Thank you for all you do! - Rebekah Russler and Jennifer Boone



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