

Continuing Ed. Connection

February

Shout Outs!

Mandi Isom - Bachelor of Science, Interdisciplinary Studies in grades K-6 SPED

Congratulations to Mandi Isom for graduating from Texas A&M-Commerce with a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies in grades K-6 SPED.

Mandi currently works for GISD as an interpreter for the Special Education Department. Mandi will use her degree to achieve her goal of becoming a Deaf Education teacher. When asked about her passion for Deaf Ed., Mandi shared this:

"The deaf culture has been a part of my life since I could remember. I was blessed to be raised by two deaf parents. They helped shape me into who I am today. I knew from an early age that I wanted to be a teacher, however I didn't know what I wanted to teach. When I started working as an interpreter for Greenville ISD, I realized that I wanted to be a deaf educator. I worked for the next three years as an interpreter and continued my education until I graduated. My passion for deaf education has only grown more. I fell in love with what I do and I'm excited for what the future holds!"

GISD is lucky to have Mandi and her passion for our students! Congratulations again!



Matt Spivy - Successful Ed.D. Dissertation Defense

Matt Spivy, GISD Director of Federal Programs and Employee Services, is celebrating a huge milestone. Matt has been attending Baylor University and pursuing his doctorate in K-12 Educational Leadership. On January 21st, Matt successfully defended his doctoral dissertation entitled "Factors Influencing Teacher Job Selection of a Rural School District for Employment" and completed his doctoral program!

Matt intends to use his doctorate to help recruit and retain the best possible teachers for Greenville ISD. He is passionate about using his expertise to continue to further GISD's Human Resources department. Matt also hopes to use his doctorate to further his goal of one day being a school superintendent.

Congratulations Dr. Spivy! Thank you for being a shining example of continuing education for GISD!



Upcoming Region 10 Opportunities:

- All Things CCMR - February 4th
- Powerful Tips for Creating Effective Writers (K-5) - February 4th
- SEL: Soothing the Stressed GT Students - February 6th
- Transforming Stigma Into Strength - February 9th
- Orthographic Mapping: Discover the Treasure (K-5) - February 9th & 18th
- Digital Breakouts in Science - February 10th
- Hybrid Shared Reading for Comprehension Growth (3-8) - February 10th
- STAAR Review to Go: Biology - February 18th
- Bookends for Math Lesson Planning: TEKS Learning Objectives to Exit Tickets - February 18th
- Academic Rigor - Math Achievement Through Differentiation - February 19th
- Syllable Types: Recipe for Successful Decoding (K-5) - February 23rd

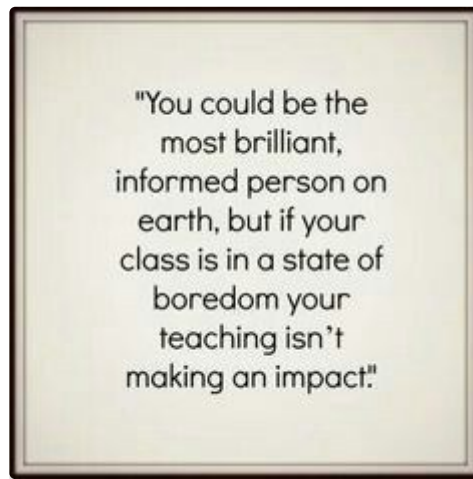
ELAR Readers & Writers Workshop Practices - Available as Lunch & Learn Thursdays or After-School Thursdays

- Quickwrites - February 4th

- Creating Writers - February 11th
- Aligning Texts & TEKS - February 18
- Literacy Circles & Reading Clubs - February 25

Find more Professional Development options on the Region 10 website [HERE](#)

February Focus: Student Engagement



Student-Led Discussion Strategies

Exchanging ideas and sharing information are essential skills that our students need in order to be prepared for the future. The more autonomy we give students during this process, the better.

That can be hard, though. Sometimes it can be a struggle to get students to lead and participate in discussions. Turning the classroom discussions over to students only works when strategies and expectations are in place. When you use the right tools, you can boost student engagement, listening and speaking skills, and comprehension.

Check out these ideas for student-led discussions!

"Stoplight Discussion"

- "Have students sit in a circle. Give each student three different [indicators] – red, yellow, and green."
 - Students "invite their peers into the conversation based on the [indicator] color displayed" to "build a conversation with each other, not with you, the teacher."
- Indicators signify as follows:
 - "Red = I am processing and/or taking notes right now. Don't call on me."
 - "Green = I am ready to jump into the conversation. Please call on me."
 - "Yellow = I would like to take this conversation in a new direction. Call on me to shake up a repetitive or 'dead' discussion."

"Snowball Discussion"

- "[S]tudents start out with a partner, and then 'snowball' [by joining a second pair to make a group of four] to continue the discussion with another partnership and/[or] a different question."
- This blending of groups continues at timed intervals, say 3-5 minutes: 2, 4, 8, 16, 32 ...

- "By the time [they] for[m] one large 'snowball,' the class [is] ... ready to discuss ... the big picture 'so what' and personal application ... to their own lives."

"Speed Dating"/"Concentric Circles"

- "[D]ivide the class in half and line them up on different sides of the classroom."
- "One ... lin[e] stays in place. One ... lin[e] rotates, with students moving to the left or right to a new discussion partner ... after a certain number of minutes."
- "Students who get to the end of the line will rotate back to the beginning of the line."

The best part is these strategies can also be adapted for online learners by using breakout rooms.

Click on the PDF for all 10 strategies!



10 Student-Led Discussion Strategies for Whole Class Discussion.pdf



Download

93.7 KB

Check Out These Other Great Articles on Student Engagement!

[How to Spark Engagement in Math With Pictures](#)

[6 Golden Rules for Engaging Students](#)

[5 Level of Student Engagement: A Continuum for Teaching](#)

Click on the picture below for 27 additional ways to spark your students' engagement!

27 Ways To Increase Participation

See Show them the goal of the activity.	Strategize Do team work and let students answer together.	Color Give the students markers to express their ideas.
Supply Give the students odd materials to create a prototype.	Bonding Let the students express themselves in their own way.	Sell Sell them on the idea to participate.
Demo Demonstrate how to participate.	GAMIFY Use gamification.	Share Have an open share time.
Compete Create a competition out of it.	Time Set a time limit on the activity to increase urgency.	Character Create a character or role for them to play.
Grade Disconnect it from grades so they can give immature information and not affect the grade.	Rabbit Allow rabbit trails that they want to take.	Patience Be patient for students to engage.
Fail Show them you don't know everything and its ok.	Rule Set rules of engagement together.	Emotion Allow for emotions.
Resources Give them the resources to participate.	Story board Create a story that carries through the lesson.	Survey Ask the students how they like to participate.
Assist Ask them to assist you in the activity.	Switch Switch it up frequently and keep them on their toes.	Energy Teachers, you must have energy and enthusiasm.
Purpose Have a visible purpose for the activity.	Real Give them a real life problem to solve.	Tap Tap into their drive.
By: Mia MacMeekin		

We'd Love to Hear From You!

If you have great learning ideas, classroom successes, or shout outs, we would love to share them in the Continuing Ed. Connection! Just send us an email with the details, and we will share it.

 greenvilleisd.com/domain/946