

# THE BULLETIN BOARD

NEWS FROM CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Fresno Unified Newsletter

March 2018

Every student *can* and *will* move a minimum of a grade level. Here is how...



Welcome to The Bulletin Board – A great resource to meet the needs of teaching and learning.

Have You Seen These Resources? Click the icons to learn more.



### Collaborative Conversations – Why are they critical for student learning?

The Instructional Routine Handbook is a resource with information on Collaborative Conversations – see pages R70-R77. Click on the link to watch a video on ideas about Collaborative Conversations from Dr. Doug Fisher.



**NGSS Placemat** - is a document listed as "NGSS Placemat" under "Top Links for Teachers" on our Science Website. It has the 8 Science and Engineering Practices (SEPs) in blue on one side, and the 7 Crosscutting Concepts (CCCs) in green on the back side along with the headings of the Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCIs) in orange. It's a great tool for teachers to familiarize themselves with the three dimensions of NGSS as we work toward three-dimensional instruction!



### Wonder's Vocabulary Routine

Each week there are new words that will appear in the three texts students read. Knowing these words will help our students become better readers. To introduce conversational and general academic words in an efficient, interactive way, Wonders uses the **Define/Example/Ask Routine**. The emphasized vocabulary words are used throughout the week in additional lessons and texts.



**Khan Academy** - is a free website available to all teachers and students in grades K-12 that provides standards aligned practice exercises, instructional videos, and a personalized learning dashboard. This supplemental resource can be used both in and out of the classroom for learners to study at their own pace. It is available for a variety of subjects including math in grades K-12, AP courses, SAT prep, and much more.

**Monitor and Differentiate**

**Response to Intervention** – Here is an interview with Jan Hasbrouck, an author of Wonders, about RtI.

Have a question about K – 8 curriculum? Coaches and TSAs are here to help with planning, engagement strategies, and support in every curricular area. Send your request for support to [Tiffany.Hill@fresnounified.org](mailto:Tiffany.Hill@fresnounified.org)



# ACCOUNTABLE COMMUNITIES TO WATCH

**AC TEAM: Ashley Baron, Cassie Schueler, Lauren Orgeron**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Grade, Wishon Elementary School**

## How did your Accountable Community come together?

We are all new teachers and began our careers within the last three years. While we have all been here at Wishon, we weren't always first grade teachers. This is the first year we have all been together as a grade level team and it's been great.

## What makes your Accountable Community successful?

It's not that we all teach the same, rather we all share a common goal and that makes us such a strong team. We all know it is about the kids and how we can best meet their needs. We set the foundation of working together with our schoolwide norms as well as our grade level norms. This foundation helps to come prepared and be engaged during our AC meetings. We set goals as a team, divide our work, and share teaching strategies. You can often find us peeking into one another's rooms to observe and learn from one another. We are successful because we have fostered a culture of mutual respect. We find having lunch together, daily as a team, allows for a more relaxed atmosphere to share about our day. Sometimes we talk about our teaching and sometimes we just build our friendships. By building trust, we are able to lean on each other and support one another, which allows our team to continue growing.



**AC TEAM: Jacquelin Moua, Lisa Calabrese, Peter Yang, and Rhonda Reinhart**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Team, Kings Canyon Middle School**

## How did your Accountable Community come together?

This is our first year together as a team of four. As we think back to how we began developing as an Accountable Community, we started our work together by creating norms for our group. These norms were developed collectively and are revisited or revised as necessary. It's important to establish norms early so concerns can be addressed right away. Some of our norms include no cell phone use for our entire meeting time of 55 minutes. We want to focus on our students and our team during that time.

## What makes your Accountable Community successful?

We believe ALL 7<sup>th</sup> grade math students belong to us collectively. Therefore, teamwork is vital for the success of all students. For us, data is at the heart of all we do. We are constantly sharing and reflecting on our data and teaching strategies. We ask questions such as "What did you do to teach that?" and "How did you do it?" during both AC meeting times as well as between classes. We always are striving to improve our craft and are willing to learn from one another. We are willing to ask one another for help because working together allows us to build on each other's strengths and be better teachers for our students. Our focus on being life-long learners helps keep the focus on our students.



## Advice for fellow Accountable Communities...

Something we find especially helpful is working as a team to solve problems as students. When we do this, we get to see one another's thought process and a variety of ways we can teach our own students during upcoming lessons. We design our lessons together so we can reflect on best practices afterwards. We know our teaching styles are different and honor our differences. It's these differences that allow us to learn from one another. Our classroom doors are always open. We welcome one another to observe, co-teach, and give honest feedback so we can improve. Having trust and a willingness to be vulnerable is key to improving our teaching and we strive to be better with each lesson every day.