



# Curriculum & Instruction Newsletter

## How to Help Students Become Independent and Strategic Learners

Hello Team,

Did you know that by using the appropriate instructional strategy when teaching your lesson can assist with promoting critical thinking for students? Also, instructional strategies can be used by students as a learning strategy that can assist them with effectively completing a task or meeting a goal when students work independently and select the appropriate strategy.

In addition, the use of effective instructional strategies have many benefits for both the student and teacher. Use of the strategies can help



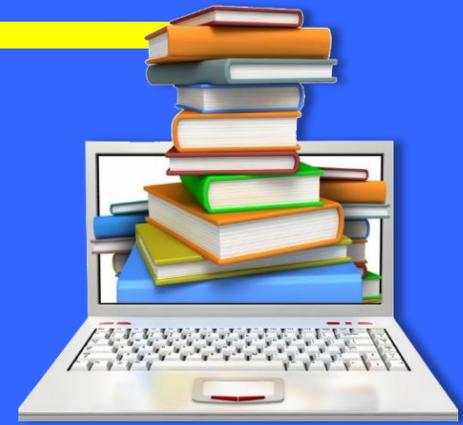
to motivate students, help focus their attention, organize information for understanding, assist with remembering, and help with monitoring and assessing learning.

Please let us know how the Curriculum and Instruction Department can provide additional support.

We hope that you are having a great school year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Stacey Nichols  
*Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction*



*"Education* is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"

-Nelson Mandela

### CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION TEAM



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## Who Wants to Be A Million Dollar Educator?

Becoming a Million Dollar Teacher is as easy as 1, 2, 3.

The formula that leads to highly successful master teachers begins with National Board Certification. Learn more by visiting the following link: <https://www.nbpts.org/certification/get-started/> Recognized as the gold standard in teacher certification, the National Board believes higher standards for teachers means better learning for students.

Established in 1987, the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is an independent, nonprofit organization working to advance accomplished teaching for all students.

### The founding mission of the National Board is to advance the quality of teaching and learning by:

- Maintaining high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do;
- Providing a national voluntary system certifying teachers who meet these standards;
- Advocating related education reform to integrate National Board Certification in American education and to capitalize on the expertise of National Board Certified Teachers.

Contact [bsharp@rgsd.k12.mo.us](mailto:bsharp@rgsd.k12.mo.us)

Additionally, EducationPlus is offering coaching sessions for teachers who have registered as candidates for National Board Certification and are working on one or more components during the 2021-2022 cycle. The certification process is rigorous and requires many hours of challenging work. Many teachers have benefited from working with a coach and collaborating with other National Board candidates. These coaching sessions will give you the opportunity to meet and work with talented teachers from different disciplines and districts. The facilitator will provide information and clarification on topics of interest to all of the participants, as well as coaching on an individual basis. These sessions also allow for candidates to have some dedicated and quality time to work on completing their component(s).

Graduate credit is available through Webster University on the following dates:

Saturday, January 8, 2022	Saturday, February 26, 2022	Saturday, April 9, 2022
Saturday, January 22, 2022	Saturday, March 12, 2022	Saturday, April 23, 2022
Saturday, February 12, 2022	Saturday, March 26, 2022	Saturday, May 7, 2022

## Have you considered explicit vocabulary instruction?

The pandemic has presented us with a myriad of challenges. How often are you teaching explicit vocabulary? Think about where students need to apply word knowledge: reading, writing, listening, math word problems, speaking, and problem solving. Students grasp the full meaning of words gradually, with repeated use and varied contexts that illustrate how meanings can change. Robert Marzano's in *Building Background Knowledge for Academic Achievement* basically states that before a student can grasp the concepts being taught, the student needs a mental scaffold in which to place them.

### Vocabulary Instructional Strategies: Marzano's 6-Step Process

The six-step process includes the following steps:

1. The teacher provides a description, explanation, or example of the term.
2. Linguistic definition – students restate the description, explanation, or example in their own words.
3. Nonlinguistic definition – students construct a picture, pictograph, symbolic representation, or act out the term.
4. The teacher extends and refines understanding of the word by engaging students in activities that help them add to their knowledge of the terms in vocabulary notebooks.
5. Periodically ask students to discuss the terms with one another.
6. Involve students in games that enable them to play with the terms and reinforce word knowledge.



## Star Winter Window

The Winter Star Benchmark window will be open January 3 - January 28, 2022. On Monday, January 31, 2022, the building and district data will be collected and analyzed to determine growth from the Fall baseline data. In January, students in grades 1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> will take the Star Reading Assessment. Kindergarten students will take the Early Literacy Assessment. Students in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades who struggle to pass the practice questions on the Star Reading Assessment may be given the Early Literacy Assessment instead. Students in grades 1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> will be take the Star Math Assessment.



### Who wants to make a difference?

With the district CFA's being administered, there is still a need to compile the remaining CFA's for the curriculum units for the second semester.

CFA meeting dates:

- |                     |   |                  |
|---------------------|---|------------------|
| ➤ December 13, 2021 |  | ➤ March 17, 2022 |
| ➤ January 7, 2022   |   | ➤ April 14, 2022 |
| ➤ February 10, 2022 |   | ➤ May 19, 2022   |

If you are interested, contact [pkennedy@rgsd.k12.mo.us](mailto:pkennedy@rgsd.k12.mo.us)

## Technology Two Factor Authentication



Due to the numerous security breaches that have occurred in various school Districts, Technology Departments are being advised to implement 2 factor authentication. An authentication factor is a category of security credential used to verify a user's identity and give authorization before allowing that user to gain access to an account, send communications or request data from a secured network or application. We will implement this additional security layer in phases - beginning with the Technology and Business/Finance Offices. This additional security is being implemented to keep accounts secure and ensure that unauthorized users can't gain access to District online accounts. More information will be provided later.

## December 2021 Calendar of Events for the Curriculum and Instruction Department

Curriculum Writing – December 13  
 Program of Study Revisions due – December 17  
 RGSD Spelling Bee @ Elementary Building Level

Riverview Gardens School District Winter Break – December 18 - January 2, 2022



Enjoy Your Winter Break!

