

News notes

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Sarah Wilson! WOW! Your patience is wonderful. If you see Sarah please congratulate her for “hanging in” while a student gave her a run for the money.

It occurs to me that many of us think secondary means that the foundation is already in place. But for some students it isn't. We would not build a house with no foundation. Even if that house was already supposed to have one, if it didn't we would not just build the walls on the ground. The same is true with students. If the foundations for learning are not in place then we must get that covered. Perhaps a college class for us in elementary reading or math or writing might be in order.

Tips for helping students with the foundations to memorize—

1. Encourage students to memorize with understanding to build a database for future reference. Provide opportunities for students to ask questions. Make sure they know the meaning of words and math facts you want them to remember. You have heard practice makes perfect—but practice makes permanent so make sure the practice is correct.
2. Play memory games, making it fun to memorize poems, songs, facts, and skills. Give practical examples of useful information for memorization.
3. Listen when students ask why they need to know something. Make sure they know why they are learning names, dates, and places—not just to score well on a test but to have points of reference in a historical or geographical context. Encourage students to value memorization as a powerful cognitive structure that will build their confidence and make learning easier.
4. Encourage students to notice things and gather as much relevant information as possible to make connections with prior knowledge and experience. Stimulate creative investigation for self-learning. Resist the temptation to tell them what to notice.
5. Encourage students to be reflectively aware of what their senses are telling them. This brings information to a

conscious level for processing and enhances memory.

6. Encourage students to close their eyes and use their powerful imaginations to visualize information they want to remember and plan how they will recall it when needed (retrace connections for access). Pictures are usually easier to remember than words. The more vivid the images, the more likely students are to remember them.
7. Encourage students to attach feelings to what they want to memorize. Provide pleasurable experiences when students need to remember something.
8. Provide opportunities for multisensory, hands-on experiences that apply what needs to be remembered, Students learn best by doing.
9. Encourage students to use association strategies such as mnemonics, acrostics, rhythms, rhymes, concept mapping, outlining, sequencing, cartooning, and contextual referencing to make memorizing easier. They can also design creative, humorous arrangements to aid memory.
10. Encourage students to systematically rehearse and practice what they want to remember and to review their connective pathways for access. Ask them how they would teach what they know to someone else.

More in the future about mental foundations needed to learn.

It occurs to me that we should all thank Mary Hogan and Tonya Cox for trying to keep our tech. hunger satisfied, Thanks Mary and Tonya



Are you having trouble with WEBKIDSS? Below are some of the factors that affect being timed out too soon and slow running..

Some Variables that affect Bandwidth/Timeout

- Browser Security Settings – Internet Explorer/Firefox
- Ad-ware on computer
- Virus Scan – Machine/Firewall/ -
- Building Bandwidth Fluctuation - Local Web applications in some districts uses a large amount of bandwidth
- Computer System Speed – Processor-bus speed-Memory (Processor & Bus speed need to be compatible to allow the most efficient processing of data (Most district computers are sufficient/Manufacturers consider this when designing)
- PC may have more success Webkidss with Firefox browser without extra toolbars.
- Toolbars – yahoo, msn, google, etc – use bandwidth & also scan information
- Turn off pop up blockers
- Wireless computers are going to be slower & have more fluctuation in upload speed. Best practice: work on the Webkidss with a cable plugged in to a network port
- Local Machine – How many programs can be running without affecting performance? If you're having trouble close everything but the WebKidss program

Is your class making the grade? If your class were scored on the number of state indicators you have taught and the number of indicators the students have learned would it be a good match?

If you post the indicator on your board that is being taught everyday please email me and tell me. I haven't seen an indicator listed in a while.

Vision is as vision does. If we want better results we need to start with **data**. The use of data enables us to set targets and assess progress toward those goals. It makes the vision real. As new actions begin to conform to that ideal, results are inevitable. This cultivates hope and reinforces the commitment to that ideal. None of this is automatic. **A productive culture is a high-maintenance culture.** It needs constant cultivation and attention.

One of the most powerful lessons to be learned is that good things happen when we dog, obsess, and communicate constantly about just a few essential things. Anyone can do this. Stress the supreme importance of paying attention to the essentials, it is

not a product of eloquence or slick materials. Like any organization, schools communicate what is valued by showing on what they focus attention. In most organizations what gets monitored gets done.

We must question the status quo. The focus of driving questions must enhance student achievement. Ask the tough questions: How do I get this student to gain academic/social skills?

ASK:

Why did I teach this content?

How did it fit into the major outcomes of the course?

Why did I use these instructional strategies?

What patterns did I see in teaching this lesson?

What worked and what didn't work? How might I

change or improve the lesson the next time I teach it?

Happy birthday to all of you who have a birthday this month, my birthday is this month. How many of you share a February birthday? Let me know.

